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Advancement of women

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Asif **Garayev** (Azerbaijan)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled:

"Advancement of women:

"(a) Advancement of women;

"(b) Implementation of the outcome of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly"

and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 8th to 12th, 14th, 15th, 21st, 35th, 41st to 43rd and 50th meetings, from 11 to 14 and on 19 and 28 October and on 4, 9 and 22 November 2010. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/65/SR.8-12, 14, 15, 21, 35, 41-43 and 50).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions;[1]

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly (A/65/204);

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 38* (A/65/38).

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(c) Report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women (A/65/208);

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls (A/65/209);

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula (A/65/268);

(f) Report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system (A/65/334);

(g) Report of the Secretary-General on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466);

(h) Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (A/65/218);

(i) Letter dated 24 August 2010 from the representative of Brazil to the President of the General Assembly (A/65/336).

4. At the 8th meeting, on 11 October, the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women (UN Women) made an introductory statement and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Chile, Japan, the United States of America, the Syrian Arab Republic, Australia, Malaysia, Brazil, Pakistan, Cameroon, Peru, India, Mexico and Indonesia, as well as the observer for the European Union (see A/C.3/65/SR.8).

5. At the same meeting, the Deputy Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund introduced a report under the item and responded to a question raised and comments made by the representative of Chile (see A/C.3/65/SR.8).

6. Also at the same meeting, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences made a statement and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Switzerland, Swaziland, Australia, Cuba, Canada, Pakistan, Algeria, Norway, Chile and Nigeria, as well as the observer for the European Union (see A/C.3/65/SR.8).

7. Also at the 8th meeting, the Vice-Chair of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women made a statement on behalf of the Chair of that Committee, and responded to questions raised and comments made by the representatives of Switzerland, Australia, Canada, Indonesia and Nigeria, as well as the observer for the European Union (see A/C.3/65/SR.8).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.17 and Rev.1 and Rev.2

8. At the 21st meeting, on 19 October, the representative of the Netherlands, on behalf of Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, the Dominican Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Gabon, Germany, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Togo, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and

Northern Ireland and the United States of America, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/65/L.17), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008, 64/137 of 18 December 2009 and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

"*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

"*Reaffirming also* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', and the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming further* the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Recalling* the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture, and the acknowledgement by the Security Council in its resolution 1888 (2009) that rape can constitute a tactic of war,

"*Recalling also* Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security, and 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

"*Recalling further* the tenth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the need for its full implementation,

"*Recalling* Human Rights Council resolution 14/12 of 18 June 2010, in which the Council requested the Office of the High Commissioner to prepare a compilation of good practices in efforts aimed at preventing violence against women and to present a report thereon during the annual full-day discussion on women's human rights at the seventeenth session of the Human Rights Council,

"*Welcoming* the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 15/23 of 1 October 2010 on the elimination of discrimination against women,

"*Recalling* its resolution 64/289, in which it established the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, to be known as UN Women, and the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the Under-Secretary-General for UN Women, and recognizing the importance of the cooperation and coordination of UN Women with all relevant United Nations entities, including the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

"*Deeply concerned* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

"*Expressing its concern* at the lack of full and effective enforcement of the national legal frameworks to prevent and address violence against women, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

"*Recognizing* that violence against women and girls is a form of discrimination which is rooted in historically and structurally unequal power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

"*Recognizing also* that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing further* that the social, cultural, economic and political empowerment of women, by ensuring their representation and full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making and their full economic independence, is indispensable for eliminating violence against women and girls, especially in the current time of economic recession,

"*Acknowledging* the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, combating human trafficking, health and crime prevention,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women, such as strengthening international instruments, legislation and the criminal justice system, adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing prevention measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, reinforcing protection, support and services for victims and survivors, and improving data collection and analysis,

"*Recognizing* the important role of the family and the community, in particular men and boys, in preventing and combating violence against women and girls and the need to support the capacity of the family and the community to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls,

"*Recognizing also* the important role of civil society, in particular women's organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

"1. *Stresses* that 'violence against women' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

"2. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

"3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

"4. *Also welcomes* the fact that a considerable number of Member States have responded to the Secretary-General's request for information relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/155, and expressing hope that Member States will continue to respond to subsequent requests by the Secretary-General and develop national strategies and adopt a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach in the fields of legislation, prevention, law enforcement, victim assistance and rehabilitation;

"5. *Further welcomes* the efforts and important contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

"6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women', through the development of a framework for action outlining the five key outcomes to be achieved by 2015, supported, inter alia, by the United Nations Development Fund for Women social mobilization and advocacy platform 'Say NO to violence against women', the United Nations inter-agency initiative 'Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual

Violence in Conflict' and the regional components of the campaign, stresses the need to accelerate implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women, requests the Secretary-General to report on the basis of the results of his campaign, and encourages Member States to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of all forms of violence against women;

"7. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether these acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

"8. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

"9. *Stresses also* that States have the obligation, at all levels of government, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"10. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflict and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on and give priority attention and increased assistance to the plight and suffering of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;

"11. *Stresses* that States, despite impressive efforts by numerous countries around the world, should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women and its causes and consequences, in order to complement more effectively the improved legal and policy frameworks, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws, and improve where possible their impact and effectiveness;

"12. *Urges* States to proactively confront and change the structurally embedded attitudes, traditions and stereotypes that are the roots of violence against women;

"13. *Stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims, and investigating and punishing violence against women and girls, receive proper

training to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress;

"14. *Stresses also* that States should take all possible measures to empower women, inform them of their rights in seeking redress through mechanisms of justice, and inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

"15. *Calls upon* States and the United Nations entities to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women;

"16. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategy, translating it into concrete programmes and actions, and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, based on good practices and incorporating measurable goals and timetables, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and by increasing the focus on prevention, to complement more effectively the improved laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of all available instruments, such as:

"(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels of government, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, supported by political will using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

"(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

"(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women and girls, and the reasons for low reporting, and, where necessary, reinforcing criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and girls and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at preventing violence against women;

"(d) Ensuring awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women and girls, and promoting gender equality, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns and other prevention activities, such as international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training, publications, brochures, websites, audiovisual material, social media, television and radio spots, and debates, provided in multiple languages, as needed;

"(e) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminate violence against women and girls,

awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

"(f) Ensuring the systematic collection and analysis of data to monitor all forms of violence against women, including on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and address such violence, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, in order to develop and implement effectively laws, policies, strategies and prevention measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

"(g) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women and girls, including through the use of national indicators;

"(h) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national action plans to end violence against women and girls, and other relevant activities;

"(i) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women and girls;

"(j) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to build skills in the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by promoting sensitization on violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, teachers, parents, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights at all levels;

"(k) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by strengthening their economic independence and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources, employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

"(l) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish, inter alia, with a deterrent effect, and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

"(m) Taking effective measures to prevent the victim's consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women

and girls to justice, while ensuring that appropriate safeguards to protect the victim and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society are in place;

"(n) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that effective legal assistance is provided to all female victims of violence so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that victims have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

"(o) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;

"(p) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to assist victims, for all professionals responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel, civil society, religious actors, statisticians and the media;

"(q) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote women's equal access to and participation in public health care and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including by providing support to victims;

"(r) Establishing or supporting integrated centres through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are provided to victims of all forms of violence against women and girls and, where such centres are not yet feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies, in order to make remedies more accessible and to facilitate the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, and ensuring that victims have access to such services;

"(s) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool to avoid recidivism;

"(t) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, and other relevant actors and the private sector to end violence against women and girls;

"17. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other

appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, and taking into account national priorities;

"18. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to preventing violence against women and girls, through their deterrent effect, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute, which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

"19. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Appraisal Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to include in its next strategy for the Trust Fund ways and means to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund once finalized;

"20. *Notes with concern* the growing gap between available funding in the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and the funds required to meet the increasing demand, and urges States and other stakeholders, where possible, to significantly increase their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015 as set by the Secretary-General's campaign 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women', while expressing its appreciation for the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the Trust Fund;

"21. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to those bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available, also taking into account the new UN Women, while recognizing that violence against women and girls remains an issue to be dealt with by all United Nations programmes and agencies;

"22. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

"23. *Also welcomes* the adoption of an interim set of indicators to measure violence against women by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Commission on this topic;

"24. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia, through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Task Force on composing a manual on joint programming, with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

"25. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, to present annual reports to the General Assembly;

"26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit:

"(a) To the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement Assembly resolution 64/137 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

"(b) To the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report with information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

"27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement resolutions 63/155, 64/137 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

"28. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled 'Advancement of women'."

9. At its 35th meeting, on 28 October, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/65/L.17/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.17 and Albania, Andorra, Australia, Benin, Brazil, Canada, Croatia, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Liechtenstein, New Zealand, Norway, Panama, and the Republic of Korea, which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008 and 64/137 of 18 December 2009 and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

"*Reaffirming* the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

"*Reaffirming also* the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century', the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council and the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming further* the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, at the 2005 World Summit and at the 2010 high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recalling* the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

"*Recalling also* the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and the need for its full implementation and Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security and 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

"*Recalling further* Human Rights Council resolution 14/12 of 18 June 2010, in which the Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a compilation of good practices in efforts aimed at preventing violence against women, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and welcoming the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 15/23 of 1 October 2010 on the elimination of discrimination against women, in which the Council established a working group of independent experts on the issue of discrimination against women in law and practice,

"*Welcoming* the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the Under-Secretary-General for UN Women, and recognizing the importance of the cooperation and coordination of UN Women

with all relevant United Nations entities, including, inter alia, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the efforts and high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including, inter alia, by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

"*Deeply concerned* about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

"*Acknowledging* that confronting and changing the harmful attitudes, customs, practices and gender stereotypes that underlie and perpetuate violence against women are fundamental to ensuring effective protection,

"*Recognizing* that violence against women and girls is rooted in historic and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

"*Recognizing also* that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

"*Recognizing further* that the empowerment of women, by, inter alia, ensuring their full representation and full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making and their full economic autonomy, including by promoting their equal access to the labour market, is fundamental for eliminating violence against women and girls, especially in the current time of economic crisis,

"*Acknowledging* the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, human trafficking, education, health and crime prevention,

"*Welcoming* the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, with a view that it will help to promote, inter alia, increased ratification and full implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,

"*Expressing its appreciation* for the efforts and high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women that have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, such as adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing prevention measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, reinforcing protection, support and services for victims and survivors, and improving data collection and analysis,

"*Emphasizing* that the lack of full and effective enforcement of national legal frameworks to prevent and address violence against women remains a continuing challenge, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

"*Recognizing* the important role of the family in preventing and combating violence against women and girls and the need to support its capacity to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

"*Recognizing also* the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, in particular women's organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

"1. *Stresses* that 'violence against women' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

"2. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

"3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

"4. *Also welcomes* the fact that a high number of Member States have responded to the Secretary-General's request for information relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/155, and expressing hope that Member States will continue to respond to subsequent requests by the Secretary-General;

"5. *Further welcomes* the efforts and important contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

"6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women', through the launch of the Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders and the development of a framework for action outlining the five key outcomes to be achieved by 2015, supported, inter alia, by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (part of UN Women) social mobilization and

advocacy platform 'Say NO to violence against women', the United Nations inter-agency initiative 'Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict' and the regional components of the campaign, stresses the need to accelerate implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women, requests the Secretary-General to report on the basis of the results of his campaign, and encourages Member States to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of all forms of violence against women;

"7. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether these acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

"8. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;

"9. *Stresses also* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

"10. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflict and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on and give priority attention and increased assistance to the plight and suffering of women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;

"11. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of the killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes;

"12. *Stresses also* that States, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women and its causes and consequences, in order to complement more effectively the improved legal and policy frameworks, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of

available programmes, policies and laws, and improve where possible their impact and effectiveness;

"13. *Stresses further* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims, and investigating and punishing violence against women and girls, receive proper training to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress;

"14. *Stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower women, inform them of their rights in seeking redress through mechanisms of justice, and inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

"15. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women;

"16. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategy, translating it into concrete programmes and actions, and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and by increasing the focus on prevention in the laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of available instruments, such as:

"(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

"(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

"(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women, and the reasons for low reporting, and, where necessary, reinforcing criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at preventing violence against women;

"(d) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns and other ways to promote prevention, such as international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training,

publications, brochures, websites, audiovisual material, social media, television and radio spots, and debates, as appropriate;

"(e) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminate violence against women and girls, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

"(f) Ensuring the systematic collection and analysis of data to monitor all forms of violence against women, including on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and address such violence, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, in order to review and implement effectively laws, policies, strategies and preventive measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

"(g) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators;

"(h) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national action plans to end violence against women, and other relevant activities;

"(i) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

"(j) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by raising awareness on the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including through schools, teachers, parents, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

"(k) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources, employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

"(l) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, contributing, inter alia, to the prevention of such

crimes, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish, and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

"(m) Taking effective measures to prevent the victim's consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that appropriate safeguards to protect the victim and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society are in place;

"(n) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that effective legal assistance is provided to all female victims of violence so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that victims have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

"(o) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;

"(p) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to assist victims, for all stakeholders responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and civil society, and engaging statisticians and the media;

"(q) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote women's equal access to public health care and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including by providing support to victims;

"(r) Establishing or supporting integrated centres through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are provided to victims of all forms of violence against women and, where such centres are not yet feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies, in order to make remedies more accessible and to facilitate the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, and ensuring that victims have access to such services;

"(s) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool to avoid recidivism;

"(t) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, and other relevant actors and the private sector to end violence against women and girls;

"17. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender

equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, and taking into account national priorities;

"18. *Stresses* the complementary role and the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to preventing violence against women and girls, through their deterrent effect, and to ending impunity, through ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute, which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

"19. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Appraisal Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2010-2015 strategy for the Trust Fund and to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund;

"20. *Notes with concern* the growing gap between available funding in the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and the funds required to meet the increasing demand, and urges States and other stakeholders, where possible, to significantly increase their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015 as set by the Secretary-General's campaign 'UNiTE to End Violence against Women', while expressing its appreciation for the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the Trust Fund;

"21. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to UN Women and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

"22. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women, expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

"23. *Also welcomes* the adoption of an interim set of indicators to measure violence against women by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth

session, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Commission on this topic;

"24. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia, through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Task Force on composing a manual on joint programming, with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

"25. *Requests* the Human Rights Council Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions;

"26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report with:

"(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 64/137 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

"(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

"27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement General Assembly resolutions 63/155 and 64/137 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

"28. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled 'Advancement of women'."

10. At its 42nd meeting, on 4 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women" (A/C.3/65/L.17/Rev.2), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.17/Rev.1 and Argentina, Armenia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Mongolia, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, San Marino, Ukraine and Uruguay.

11. At the same meeting, the representative of France, also on behalf of the Netherlands, orally revised the text as follows:

(a) At the end of the fourth preambular paragraph, the words "and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007" were inserted;

(b) At the end of the seventh preambular paragraph, the words "in which the Council established a working group of independent experts on the issue of discrimination against women and law and practice" were deleted.

12. Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso, Burundi, Grenada, Guyana, India, Liberia, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Seychelles, South Africa, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago and Vanuatu joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. Also at the 42nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Benin (on behalf of the Group of African States), Morocco (on behalf of the Group of Arab States) and the Russian Federation, as well as by the Observer for the Holy See (see A/C.3/65/SR.42).

14. At the same meeting the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.17/Rev.2, as orally revised (see para. 38, draft resolution I).

15. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of Germany (on behalf also of Italy and Poland), the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Pakistan, the Sudan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (see A/C.3/65/SR.42).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.18 and Rev.1

16. At the 21st meeting, on 11 October, the representative of Malawi, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, as well as Bangladesh, Belgium, the Czech Republic, the Dominican Republic, Finland, Haiti, Indonesia, New Zealand, Portugal and Switzerland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula" (A/C.3/65/L.18), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007 and 63/158 of 18 December 2008 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,

"*Reaffirming* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled 'Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century' and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,

"*Reaffirming also* the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and

Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration and at the 2005 World Summit,

"*Reaffirming further* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula, and welcoming the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

"*Stressing* the interlinkages among poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child, violence against young women and girls and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

"*Recognizing* that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

"*Recognizing also* that early pregnancy and early childbearing entail complications during pregnancy and delivery and a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

"*Recognizing further* the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and the negative impact on psychological, social and economic development that violence against the girl child and adolescent girls represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

"*Deeply concerned* about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access by girls to education and nutrition, reduced physical and mental health and enjoyment by girls of fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices,

"*Welcoming* the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

"*Welcoming also* the outcome document of the high-level plenary meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, 'Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals', in particular the references to Millennium Development Goal 5,

"*Taking note with appreciation* of the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health launched on 22 September 2010 and the support expressed by Member States, the international community, civil society and the private sector for the Strategy,

"*Welcoming* ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health and the commitments announced during the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to accelerate progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals,

"*Acknowledging* the renewed and reinforced commitments made by Member States for achieving Millennium Development Goal 5,

"1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages among poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty remains the main social risk factor, that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls and that continued urgent national and international action is required to eliminate it;

"2. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as early marriage of the girl child, early pregnancy, lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, lack of or inadequate education of women and girls, poverty and the low status of women and girls;

"3. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, that they must exercise due diligence in order to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls;

"4. *Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and develop sustainable health systems and social services, with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing knowledge and awareness and securing appropriate prenatal and post-natal care for the prevention of obstetric fistula;

"5. *Also calls upon* States to ensure that women and girls have equal access to free and compulsory primary education of good quality and that they complete their education at that level, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order to, inter alia, achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication;

"6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending

spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

"7. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners in the global Campaign to End Fistula, including the World Health Organization, in establishing and financing national and regional fistula treatment and training centres by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

"8. *Also calls upon* States to accelerate progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 by addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner through, inter alia, the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and methods of prevention and treatment of sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health systems that provide accessible and affordable integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as also reflected in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, 'Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals', and the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;

"9. *Further calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector:

"(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by increasing access to skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric care and appropriate prenatal and post-natal care;

"(b) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and socio-economic reintegration and support strategies, as appropriate, to address effectively the condition of obstetric fistula and to develop further a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to obstetric fistula, maternal mortality and related morbidities, including through ensuring access to affordable, comprehensive, quality maternal health-care services, including skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care;

"(c) To strengthen the capacity of health systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that do occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to young women and girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

"(d) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including community-based notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths, to guide the implementation of maternal health programmes;

"(e) To provide essential health services, equipment and supplies and skills training and income-generating projects to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

"(f) To mobilize funding to provide free or subsidized fistula repairs, including through encouraging more networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols;

"(g) To improve data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing the needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration services;

"(h) To provide health education, rehabilitation and reintegration counselling, including medical counselling, as key components of post-operative care to all women after fistula repair, including to those with irreparable cases;

"(i) To bring obstetric fistula to the attention of policymakers and communities, thereby reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with it and helping women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion together with the psychosocial implications thereof through, inter alia, the support of social reintegration projects;

"(j) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated; to increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, the media, radio stations, influential public figures and policymakers; to support the training of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers in lifesaving obstetric care; and to include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

"(k) To develop means of transportation and financing that enable women and girls to access obstetric care and treatment, and provide incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural areas of qualified health professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

"10. *Encourages* communication and networking among existing fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fund-raising and the development and application of relevant standards, including *Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development*, published in 2006 by the World Health Organization, which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment strategies and programmes;

"11. *Urges* the international community to address the shortages of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers trained in lifesaving

obstetric care, and of space and supplies, that limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

"12. *Also urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

"13. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, the global Campaign to End Fistula of the United Nations Population Fund, with the goal of eliminating obstetric fistula by 2015, in line with the targets of the Millennium Development Goal of improving maternal health;

"14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled 'Advancement of women'."

17. At its 43rd meeting, on 9 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula" (A/C.3/65/L.18/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.18 and Afghanistan, Albania, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, the Bahamas, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bhutan, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Cambodia, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lebanon, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Micronesia (Federated States of), Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Suriname, Sweden, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen.

18. At the same meeting, the representative of Benin orally corrected the draft resolution and revised operative paragraph 9 (h) by inserting the words "socio-economic" before the words "reintegration counselling".

19. Also at the same meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Belgium (on behalf of the European Union), Chile and Côte d'Ivoire (see A/C.3/65/SR.43).

20. Also at its 43rd meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.18/Rev.1, as orally revised (see para. 38, draft resolution II).

21. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representative of Saint Lucia and the observer for the Holy See (see A/C.3/65/SR.43).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.19 and Rev.1

22. At the 21st meeting, on 19 October, the representative of Gabon, on behalf of Angola, Benin, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Gabon, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, and Togo, introduced a draft resolution entitled "International Widows' Day" (A/C.3/65/L.19), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* all its relevant resolutions, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration, as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, and, in particular, the agreed conclusions from the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women endorsing the eradication of poverty through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995,

"*Recalling also* the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular article 3, according to which parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women,

"*Affirming* that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women is critical to achieving internationally agreed development goals,

"*Recognizing* that widowed women and their children are particularly vulnerable to discrimination, prejudice and social isolation, HIV/AIDS and poverty,

"*Deeply concerned* that millions of widows' children face illiteracy, loss of schooling, human trafficking and malnutrition,

"*Noting* that the abuse and suffering of widows affects women worldwide,

"*Emphasizing* the need to give special recognition to the plight of widows and their children, including those living in rural areas,

"1. *Decides* with effect from 2011 to observe International Widows' Day on 23 June each year;

"2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to afford special recognition to the situation of widows and their children;

"3. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society,

to observe International Widows' Day and to raise awareness of the plight of widows and their children around the world;

"4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take necessary measures for United Nations observance of that Day."

23. At its 42nd meeting, on 4 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "International Widows' Day" (A/C.3/65/L.19/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.19 and Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Finland, France, the Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, India, Israel, Jamaica, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Madagascar, Malawi, Maldives, Micronesia (Federated States of), Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Portugal, Senegal, Slovenia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and the United States of America.

24. At the same meeting, the representative of Jamaica made a statement (see A/C.3/65/SR.42).

25. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.19/Rev.1 (see para. 38, draft resolution III).

D. Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.20 and Rev.1

26. At the 21st meeting, on 19 October, the representative of the Philippines, on behalf of Cameroon, Chile, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, the Philippines and Togo, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" (A/C.3/65/L.20), which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* all international conventions that deal specifically with the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, as well as previous resolutions of the General Assembly and its subsidiary body the Human Rights Council, and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions on the issue,

"*Reaffirming* the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking

contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,

"*Reaffirming also* the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit and the 2005 World Summit to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

"*Recalling* the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development, the reports of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, as well as the information that deals with trafficking in women and girls contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the in-depth study on all forms of violence against women,

"*Recalling also* the 'Global report on trafficking in persons' of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime of February 2009 and the attention paid in it to the situation of trafficked women and girls,

"*Taking note* of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008, within the framework of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, and of the thematic debate on the issue of trafficking in persons, held on 3 June 2008, within the framework of the General Assembly,

"*Taking note also* of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender and age specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

"*Acknowledging* the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

"*Bearing in mind* that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, and to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

"*Seriously concerned* that an increasing number of women and girls from some developing countries and countries with economies in transition are being trafficked to developed countries, as well as within and between regions and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

"*Recognizing* that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services and other forms of

exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach in all anti-trafficking efforts,

"*Recognizing also* the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

"*Recognizing further* the challenges to combating trafficking in women and girls owing to the lack of adequate legislation and implementation of existing legislation, the lack of availability of reliable sex-disaggregated data and statistics, and the lack of resources,

"*Concerned* about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for sex tourism exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

"*Concerned also* about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

"*Recognizing* that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as their origins, and that these forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

"*Noting* that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

"*Acknowledging* that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

"*Reaffirming* the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

"*Reaffirming also* that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

"*Recognizing* that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-

sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

"*Convinced* of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the human rights of the victims,

"1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls;

"2. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

"3. *Encourages* the United Nations to mainstream the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, education and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

"4. *Calls upon* Governments to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation, and in this regard to enhance preventive measures, including legislative measures, to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

"5. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage and forced labour, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators, including public officials involved with trafficking circles, through both criminal and civil measures;

"6. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict and post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation, and associated gender-based violence;

"7. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

"8. *Urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as

well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

"9. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially of children, through all possible preventive actions;

"10. *Urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and consider, as appropriate, enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

"11. *Also urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement relevant United Nations legal instruments, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto and the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, as well as the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (Convention No. 29), the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

"12. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by forging regional initiatives or plans of action, to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, gender- and age-specific data collection and other technical capacities, and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

"13. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved in trafficking circles, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

"14. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized for being trafficked and that they do

not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence;

"15. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in violence against women, in particular trafficking, and to include data disaggregated by sex and age;

"16. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls; to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue; and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

"17. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide comprehensive programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance in a language that they can understand and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

"18. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

"19. *Encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

"20. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials in the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcers, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity, and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

"21. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular

situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities without fear and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

"22. *Also invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

"23. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

"24. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

"25. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

"26. *Invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

"27. *Encourages* Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

"28. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the International Covenants on Human Rights to include information

and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

"29. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report that compiles successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons, and provides recommendations on the strengthening of a human rights-based gender- and age-sensitive approaches within the various aspects of efforts to address trafficking in persons."

27. At its 50th meeting, on 22 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Trafficking in women and girls" (A/C.3/65/L.20/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.20 and Albania, Andorra, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Australia, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cape Verde, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, the Gambia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, Namibia, the Netherlands, Nicaragua, the Niger, Norway, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Rwanda, San Marino, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the Sudan, Swaziland, Sweden, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United Republic of Tanzania, the United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia and Zimbabwe.

28. At the same meeting, the representative of the Philippines made a statement (see A/C.3/65/SR.50).

29. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.20/Rev.1 (see para. 38, draft resolution IV).

30. After the adoption of the draft resolution, statements were made by the representatives of the Syrian Arab Republic and the Philippines (see A/C.3/65/SR.50).

E. Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.55

31. At its 41st meeting, on 4 November, the Committee had before it a draft resolution entitled "Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly" (A/C.3/65/L.55), submitted by the Chair on the basis of informal consultations.

32. At the same meeting, the Vice-Chair, Maria Luz Melon (Argentina), made a statement (see A/C.3/65/SR.41).

33. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.55 (see para. 38, draft resolution V).

F. Proposal contained in document A/C.3/65/L.7

34. At its 15th meeting, on 14 October, the Committee had before it a note by the secretariat (A/C.3/65/L.7), containing the text of a declaration on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women and transmitted by the Economic and Social Council.

35. At the same meeting, the Chair made a statement (see A/C.3/65/SR.15).

36. At its 43rd meeting, on 9 November, following a statement by the Chair (see A/C.3/65/SR.43), the Committee agreed that, in the light of the adoption of draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.55 at its 41st meeting, no action was required on the declaration contained in document A/C.3/65/L.7.

G. Draft decision proposed by the Chair

37. At its 50th meeting, on 22 November, on the proposal of the Chair, the Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that it take note of a number of documents considered in connection with the advancement of women (see para. 39).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

38. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 61/143 of 19 December 2006, 62/133 of 18 December 2007, 63/155 of 18 December 2008 and 64/137 of 18 December 2009 and all its previous resolutions on the elimination of violence against women,

Reaffirming the obligation of all States to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, and reaffirming also that discrimination on the basis of sex is contrary to the Charter of the United Nations, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[1] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[2] and other international human rights instruments, and that its elimination is an integral part of efforts towards the elimination of all forms of violence against women,

Reaffirming also the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women,[3] the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[4] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[5] the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2010 of the Economic and Social Council[6] and the declarations adopted at the forty-ninth and fifty-fourth sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women,[7]

Reaffirming further the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[8] at the 2005 World Summit[9] and at the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[2] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[3] See resolution 48/104.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[6] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/65/3/Rev.1), chap. III.

[7] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232; and *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* (E/2010/27), chap. I, sect. A.

[8] See resolution 55/2.

[9] See resolution 60/1.

session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals,[10] and noting the attention paid to the elimination of all forms of violence against indigenous women in the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples adopted by the General Assembly in its resolution 61/295 of 13 September 2007,

Recalling the inclusion of gender-related crimes and crimes of sexual violence in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[11] as well as the recognition by the ad hoc international criminal tribunals that rape and other forms of sexual violence can constitute a war crime, a crime against humanity or a constitutive act with respect to genocide or torture,

Recalling also the tenth anniversary of the adoption of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000 and the need for its full implementation and Security Council resolutions 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security and 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

Recalling further Human Rights Council resolution 14/12 of 18 June 2010,[12] in which the Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a compilation of good practices in efforts aimed at preventing violence against women, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, and Human Rights Council resolution 15/23 of 1 October 2010 on the elimination of discrimination against women,[13]

Welcoming the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women) and the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the Under-Secretary-General for UN Women, and recognizing the importance of the cooperation and coordination of UN Women with all relevant United Nations entities, including, inter alia, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and high number of activities undertaken by the United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, including, inter alia, by the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

Deeply concerned about the pervasiveness of violence against women and girls in all its different forms and manifestations worldwide, and reiterating the need to intensify efforts to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls throughout the world,

Recognizing that violence against women and girls is rooted in historic and structural inequality in power relations between men and women and that all forms of violence against women seriously violate and impair or nullify the enjoyment by

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[10] See resolution 65/1.

[11] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

[12] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

[13] Ibid., *Supplement No. 53A* (A/65/53/Add.1), chap. I.

women and girls of all human rights and fundamental freedoms and constitute a major impediment to the ability of women to make use of their capabilities,

Recognizing also that women's poverty and lack of empowerment, as well as their marginalization resulting from their exclusion from social policies and from the benefits of education and sustainable development, can place them at increased risk of violence, and that violence against women impedes the social and economic development of communities and States, as well as the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Recognizing further that the empowerment of women, by, inter alia, ensuring their full representation and full and equal participation at all levels of decision-making and their full economic autonomy, including by promoting their equal access to the labour market, is fundamental for eliminating violence against women and girls, especially in the current time of economic crisis,

Acknowledging the need to address violence against women and girls holistically, including through the recognition of linkages between violence against women and girls and other issues, such as HIV/AIDS, poverty eradication, food security, peace and security, humanitarian assistance, human trafficking, education, health and crime prevention,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[14] and stressing its contribution to combating violence against women and the need for its full and effective implementation,

Expressing its appreciation for the efforts and high number of activities undertaken by States to eliminate all forms of violence against women that have resulted in the strengthening of legislation and the criminal justice system, such as adopting national action plans, strategies and national coordination mechanisms, implementing prevention measures, including awareness-raising and capacity-building, reinforcing protection, support and services for victims and survivors, and improving data collection and analysis,

Emphasizing that the lack of full and effective enforcement of national legal frameworks to prevent and address violence against women remains a continuing challenge, as noted by the Secretary-General in his report on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,[15]

Recognizing the important role of the family in preventing and combating violence against women and girls and the need to support its capacity to prevent and eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls,

Recognizing also the important role of the community, in particular men and boys, as well as civil society, in particular women's organizations, in the efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women,

1. *Stresses* that "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life;

[14] Resolution 64/293.

[15] A/65/208.

2. *Recognizes* that violence against women and girls persists in every country in the world as a pervasive violation of the enjoyment of human rights and a major impediment to achieving gender equality, development, peace and the internationally agreed development goals, in particular the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Welcomes* the report of the Secretary-General on the intensification of efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;[15]

4. *Also welcomes* the fact that a high number of Member States have responded to the request of the Secretary-General for information relating to the implementation of General Assembly resolution 63/155, and expresses hope that Member States will continue to respond to subsequent requests by the Secretary-General;

5. *Further welcomes* the efforts and important contributions at the local, national, regional and international levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* for the progress achieved in the Secretary-General's 2008-2015 campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", through the launch of the Secretary-General's Network of Men Leaders and the development of a framework for action outlining the five key outcomes to be achieved by 2015, supported, inter alia, by the United Nations Development Fund for Women (part of UN Women) social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women", the United Nations inter-agency initiative "Stop Rape Now: United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict" and the regional components of the campaign, stresses the need to accelerate the implementation of concrete follow-up activities by the United Nations system to end all forms of violence against women, requests the Secretary-General to report on the results of his campaign, and encourages Member States to join forces in addressing the global pandemic of all forms of violence against women;

7. *Strongly condemns* all acts of violence against women and girls, whether those acts are perpetrated by the State, by private persons or by non-State actors, and calls for the elimination of all forms of gender-based violence in the family, within the general community and where perpetrated or condoned by the State;

8. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[3]

9. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation, at all levels, to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, including women and girls, and must exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, to eliminate impunity and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

10. *Reaffirms* that the persistence of armed conflicts in various parts of the world is a major impediment to the elimination of all forms of violence against

women, and, bearing in mind that armed and other types of conflict and terrorism and hostage-taking still persist in many parts of the world and that aggression, foreign occupation and ethnic and other types of conflicts are an ongoing reality, affecting women and men in nearly every region, calls upon all States and the international community to place particular focus on the plight, and give priority attention and increased assistance to relieving the suffering of, women and girls living in such situations and to ensure that, where violence is committed against them, all perpetrators of such violence are duly investigated and, as appropriate, prosecuted and punished in order to end impunity, while stressing the need to respect international humanitarian law and human rights law;

11. *Stresses* the need for the exclusion of the killing and maiming of women and girls, as prohibited under international law, and crimes of sexual violence from amnesty provisions in the context of conflict resolution processes;

12. *Also stresses* that States, despite important steps taken by many countries around the world, should continue to focus on the prevention of violence against women and its causes and consequences, in order to complement more effectively the improved legal and policy frameworks, and should therefore monitor and rigorously evaluate the implementation of available programmes, policies and laws, and improve where possible their impact and effectiveness;

13. *Further stresses* that States should take measures to ensure that all officials responsible for implementing policies and programmes aimed at preventing violence against women and girls, protecting and assisting the victims, and investigating and punishing violence against women and girls, receive proper training to sensitize them to the different and specific needs of women and girls, in particular those who have been subjected to violence, so that women and girls are not revictimized when seeking justice and redress;

14. *Stresses* that States should take all possible measures to empower women, inform them of their rights in seeking redress through mechanisms of justice, and inform everyone of women's rights and of the existing penalties for violating those rights;

15. *Calls upon* States, with the support of United Nations entities, to fully engage men and boys, as well as families and communities, as agents of change in preventing and condemning violence against women;

16. *Urges* States to continue to develop their national strategy, translating it into concrete programmes and actions, and a more systematic, comprehensive, multisectoral and sustained approach, aimed at eliminating all forms of violence against women, including by achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and by increasing the focus on prevention in the laws, policies and programmes and their implementation, monitoring and evaluation, so as to ensure the optimal use of available instruments, such as:

(a) Establishing, in partnership with all relevant stakeholders and at all relevant levels, a comprehensive integrated national plan dedicated to combating violence against women and girls in all its aspects, which includes data collection and analysis, prevention and protection measures, as well as national information campaigns, using resources to eliminate in the media gender stereotypes that lead to violence against women and girls;

(b) Reviewing and, where appropriate, revising, amending or abolishing all laws, regulations, policies, practices and customs that discriminate against women or have a discriminatory impact on women, and ensuring that the provisions of multiple legal systems, where they exist, comply with international human rights obligations, commitments and principles, including the principle of non-discrimination;

(c) Evaluating and assessing the impact of current legislation, rules and procedures regarding violence against women, and the reasons for low reporting, and, where necessary, reinforcing criminal law and procedure relating to all forms of violence against women and, where necessary, incorporating into law measures aimed at preventing violence against women;

(d) Promoting awareness among all stakeholders of the need to combat violence against women, and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women, inter alia, through regular and repeated use and funding of awareness-raising campaigns and other ways to promote prevention, such as international, regional and national conferences, seminars, training, publications, brochures, websites, audiovisual material, social media, television and radio spots, and debates, as appropriate;

(e) Ensuring that there is sufficient knowledge, including expertise in effective legal approaches to eliminating violence against women and girls, awareness and coordination in the legal system and, to that end, where appropriate, appointing a focal point in the legal system for cases of violence against women and girls;

(f) Ensuring the systematic collection and analysis of data to monitor all forms of violence against women, including on the effectiveness of measures to prevent and address such violence, with the involvement of national statistical offices and, where appropriate, in partnership with other actors, in order to review and implement effectively laws, policies, strategies and preventive measures, while ensuring and maintaining the privacy and confidentiality of the victims;

(g) Establishing appropriate national mechanisms for monitoring and evaluating the implementation of national measures, including national action plans, taken to eliminate violence against women, including through the use of national indicators;

(h) Providing adequate financial support for the implementation of national action plans to end violence against women, and other relevant activities;

(i) Allocating adequate resources to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality and to prevent and redress all forms and manifestations of violence against women;

(j) Adopting all appropriate measures, especially in the field of education, from the entry levels of the education system, to modify the social and cultural patterns of conduct of men and women of all ages, in order to promote the development of respectful relations and to eliminate prejudices, customary practices and all other practices based on the idea of the inferiority or superiority of either of the sexes and on stereotyped roles for men and women, and by raising awareness on the unacceptability of violence against women and girls at all levels, including

through schools, teachers, parents, youth organizations and teaching materials sensitized on gender equality and human rights;

(k) Empowering women, in particular women living in poverty, by, inter alia, strengthening their economic autonomy and by ensuring their full participation in society and in decision-making processes, through, inter alia, social and economic policies that guarantee them full and equal access to all levels of quality education and training and to affordable and adequate public and social services, as well as equal access to financial resources, employment, and full and equal rights to own and have access to land and other property, and taking further appropriate measures to address the increasing rate of homelessness and inadequate housing for women in order to reduce their vulnerability to violence;

(l) Treating all forms of violence against women and girls as a criminal offence, punishable by law, contributing, inter alia, to the prevention of such crimes, and ensuring penalties commensurate with the severity of the crimes and sanctions in domestic legislation to punish, and redress, as appropriate, the wrongs caused to women and girls who are subjected to violence;

(m) Taking effective measures to prevent the victim's consent from becoming an impediment to bringing perpetrators of violence against women and girls to justice, while ensuring that appropriate safeguards to protect the victim and adequate and comprehensive measures for the rehabilitation and reintegration of victims of violence into society are in place;

(n) Encouraging the removal of all barriers to women's access to justice and ensuring that effective legal assistance is provided to all female victims of violence so that they can make informed decisions regarding, inter alia, legal proceedings and issues relating to family law, and also ensuring that victims have access to just and effective remedies for the harm that they have suffered, including through the adoption of national legislation where necessary;

(o) Ensuring effective cooperation and coordination among all stakeholders, including all relevant public officials and civil society, in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of all forms of violence against women and girls;

(p) Developing or improving and disseminating specialized training programmes, including practical tools and good practice guidelines on how to identify, prevent and deal with cases of violence against women and girls and on how to assist victims, for all stakeholders responsible for dealing with violence against women and girls, its causes and consequences, including police officers, the judiciary, health workers, law enforcement personnel and civil society, and engaging statisticians and the media;

(q) Strengthening national health and social infrastructure to reinforce measures to promote women's equal access to public health care and address the health consequences of all forms of violence against women and girls, including by providing support to victims;

(r) Establishing or supporting integrated centres through which shelter, legal, health, psychological, counselling and other services are provided to victims of all forms of violence against women and, where such centres are not yet feasible, promoting collaboration and coordination among agencies, in order to make

remedies more accessible and to facilitate the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims, and ensuring that victims have access to such services;

(s) Ensuring that the prison system and probation services provide appropriate rehabilitation programmes for perpetrators, as a preventive tool to avoid recidivism;

(t) Supporting and engaging in partnerships with non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations, and other relevant actors and the private sector to end violence against women and girls;

17. *Calls upon* the international community, including the United Nations system and, as appropriate, regional and subregional organizations, to support national efforts to promote the empowerment of women and gender equality in order to enhance national efforts to eliminate violence against women and girls, including, upon request, in the development and implementation of national action plans on the elimination of violence against women and girls, through, inter alia, official development assistance and other appropriate assistance, such as facilitating the sharing of guidelines, methodologies and best practices, taking into account national priorities;

18. *Stresses* the contribution of the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the International Criminal Court to ending impunity, through ensuring accountability and punishing perpetrators of violence against women, and urges States to consider ratifying or acceding as a matter of priority to the Rome Statute,[11] which entered into force on 1 July 2002;

19. *Calls upon* the inter-agency Programme Appraisal Committee of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women, in consultation with the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, to continue to provide guidance on the implementation of the 2010-2015 strategy for the Trust Fund and to further enhance its effectiveness as a system-wide funding mechanism for preventing and redressing all forms of violence against women and girls and to give due consideration, inter alia, to the findings and recommendations of the external evaluation of the Trust Fund;

20. *Notes with concern* the growing gap between available funding in the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women and the funds required to meet the increasing demand, and urges States and other stakeholders, where possible, to significantly increase their voluntary contributions to the Trust Fund in order to meet the annual target of 100 million United States dollars by 2015 as set by the Secretary-General's campaign "UNiTE to End Violence against Women", while expressing its appreciation for the contributions already made by States, the private sector and other donors to the Trust Fund;

21. *Stresses* that, within the United Nations system, adequate resources should be assigned to UN Women and other bodies, specialized agencies, funds and programmes responsible for the promotion of gender equality and women's rights and to efforts throughout the United Nations system to prevent and eliminate violence against women and girls, and calls upon the United Nations system to make the necessary support and resources available;

22. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Secretary-General's database on violence against women,[16] expresses its appreciation to all the States that have provided the database with information regarding, inter alia, their national policies and legal frameworks aimed at eliminating violence against women and supporting victims of such violence, strongly encourages all States to regularly provide updated information for the database, and calls upon all relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to support States, at their request, in the compilation and regular updating of pertinent information and to raise awareness of the database among all relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

23. *Also welcomes* the adoption of an interim set of indicators to measure violence against women[17] by the Statistical Commission at its fortieth session,[18] and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Commission on this topic;

24. *Calls upon* all United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies and invites the Bretton Woods institutions to intensify their efforts at all levels to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls and to better coordinate their work, inter alia, through the Task Force on Violence against Women of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality, and looks forward to the results of the ongoing work of the Task Force on composing a manual on joint programming, with a view to increasing effective support for national efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

25. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences to present an annual report to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth and sixty-seventh sessions;

26. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report with:

(a) Information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on their follow-up activities to implement resolution 64/137 and the present resolution, including on their assistance to States in their efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women;

(b) Information provided by States on their follow-up activities to implement the present resolution;

27. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to present an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth sessions with information provided by the United Nations bodies, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies on recent follow-up activities to implement General Assembly resolutions 63/155 and 64/137 and the present resolution, including on the progress made in enhancing the effectiveness of the United Nations Trust Fund in Support of Actions to Eliminate Violence against Women as a system-wide United Nations mechanism and on the progress of the Secretary-General's campaign to end violence against women, and urges United Nations bodies, entities, funds and programmes and the specialized agencies to contribute promptly to that report;

28. *Decides* to continue the consideration of the question at its sixty-seventh session under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

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[16] Available from www.un.org/esa/vawdatabase.

[17] See E/CN.3/2009/13, para. 28.

[18] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2009, Supplement No. 4* (E/2009/24), chap. I, sect. B, decision 40/110.

Draft resolution II
Supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 62/138 of 18 December 2007 and 63/158 of 18 December 2008 on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,

Reaffirming the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[1] the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[2] and the declaration adopted at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women,[3]

Reaffirming also the international commitments in the field of social development and to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the World Conference on Human Rights, the International Conference on Population and Development, the World Summit for Social Development and the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, as well as those made in the United Nations Millennium Declaration[4] and at the 2005 World Summit,[5]

Reaffirming further the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[6] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[7] and urging States that have not done so to consider, as a matter of priority, signing, ratifying or acceding to those Conventions and the Optional Protocols thereto,[8]

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on supporting efforts to end obstetric fistula,[9] and welcoming the conclusions and recommendations contained therein,

Stressing the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child, violence against young women and girls and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, and that poverty remains the main social risk factor,

Recognizing that the difficult socio-economic conditions that exist in many developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, have resulted in the acceleration of the feminization of poverty,

Recognizing also that early pregnancy and early childbearing entail complications during pregnancy and delivery and a much higher risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, and deeply concerned that early childbearing and limited

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 7* and corrigendum (E/2005/27 and Corr.1), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/232.

[4] See resolution 55/2.

[5] See resolution 60/1.

[6] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

[7] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[8] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378; and ibid., vols. 2171 and 2173, No. 27531.

[9] A/65/268.

access to the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, including in the area of emergency obstetric care, cause high levels of obstetric fistula and other maternal morbidities, as well as maternal mortality,

Recognizing further the serious immediate and long-term implications for health, including sexual and reproductive health, as well as increased vulnerability to HIV/AIDS, and the negative impact on psychological, social and economic development that violence against the girl child and adolescent girls represents for individuals, families, communities and States,

Deeply concerned about discrimination against the girl child and the violation of the rights of the girl child, which often result in less access by girls to education and nutrition, reduced physical and mental health and enjoyment by girls of fewer of the rights, opportunities and benefits of childhood and adolescence compared with boys, and in their often being subjected to various forms of cultural, social, sexual and economic exploitation and to violence and harmful practices,

Welcoming the contribution by Member States, the international community and civil society to the global Campaign to End Fistula, bearing in mind that a people-centred approach to social and economic development is fundamental for protecting and empowering individuals and communities,

Welcoming also the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[10] in particular the references to Millennium Development Goal 5,

Welcoming further the Secretary-General's Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health, undertaken by a broad coalition of partners, in support of national plans and strategies aimed at significantly reducing the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths as a matter of immediate concern by scaling up a priority package of high-impact interventions and integrating efforts in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, water and sanitation, poverty reduction and nutrition,

Welcoming the various national, regional and international initiatives on all the Millennium Development Goals, including those undertaken bilaterally and through South-South cooperation, in support of national plans and strategies in sectors such as health, education, gender equality, energy, water and sanitation, poverty reduction and nutrition as a way to reduce the number of maternal, newborn and under-five child deaths,

Welcoming also ongoing partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to address the multifaceted determinants of maternal, newborn and child health in close coordination with Member States based on their needs and priorities and the commitments announced during the High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to accelerate progress on the health-related Millennium Development Goals,

Reaffirming the renewed and reinforced commitments made by Member States for achieving Millennium Development Goal 5,

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[10] See resolution 65/1.

1. *Recognizes* the interlinkages between poverty, malnutrition, lack of or inadequate or inaccessible health services, early childbearing, early marriage of the girl child and gender discrimination as root causes of obstetric fistula, that poverty remains the main social risk factor, that the eradication of poverty is critical to meeting the needs and protecting and promoting the rights of women and girls and that continued urgent national and international action is required to eliminate it;

2. *Stresses* the need to address the social issues that contribute to the problem of obstetric fistula, such as early marriage of the girl child, early pregnancy, lack of access to sexual and reproductive health, lack of or inadequate education of women and girls, poverty and the low status of women and girls;

3. *Also stresses* that States have the obligation to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of women and girls, that they must exercise due diligence in order to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls and to provide protection to the victims, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. *Calls upon* States to take all necessary measures to ensure the right of women and girls to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health, including sexual and reproductive health, and to develop sustainable health systems and social services, with a view to ensuring access to such systems and services without discrimination, while paying special attention to adequate food and nutrition, water and sanitation, family planning information, increasing knowledge and awareness and securing appropriate prenatal and post-natal care for the prevention of obstetric fistula;

5. *Also calls upon* States to ensure the right to education for women and girls, of good quality, on an equal basis with men and boys, and to ensure that they complete a full course of primary education, and to renew their efforts to improve and expand girls' and women's education at all levels, including at the secondary and higher levels, as well as vocational education and technical training, in order, inter alia, to achieve gender equality, the empowerment of women and poverty eradication;

6. *Urges* States to enact and strictly enforce laws to ensure that marriage is entered into only with the free and full consent of the intending spouses and, in addition, to enact and strictly enforce laws concerning the minimum legal age of consent and the minimum age for marriage, and to raise the minimum age for marriage where necessary;

7. *Calls upon* the international community to support the activities of the United Nations Population Fund and other partners in the global Campaign to End Fistula, including the World Health Organization, in establishing and financing regional fistula treatment and training centres, and where necessary national centres, by identifying and supporting health facilities that have the potential to serve as centres for treatment, training and convalescent care;

8. *Also calls upon* States to accelerate progress in order to achieve Millennium Development Goal 5 and its two targets by addressing reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health in a comprehensive manner, inter alia, through the provision of family planning, prenatal care, skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric and newborn care and methods of prevention and treatment of

sexually transmitted diseases and infections, such as HIV, within strengthened health systems that provide accessible and affordable integrated health-care services and include community-based preventive and clinical care, as also reflected in the outcome document of the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals, "Keeping the promise: united to achieve the Millennium Development Goals",[10] and the Global Strategy for Women's and Children's Health;

9. *Further calls upon* States and/or the relevant funds and programmes, organs and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, and the private sector:

(a) To redouble their efforts to meet the internationally agreed goal of improving maternal health by making maternal health services and obstetric fistula treatment geographically and financially accessible, including by increasing access to skilled attendance at birth, emergency obstetric care and appropriate prenatal and post-natal care;

(b) To develop, implement and support national and international prevention, care and treatment and socio-economic reintegration and support strategies, as appropriate, to address effectively the condition of obstetric fistula and to develop further a multisectoral, multidisciplinary, comprehensive and integrated approach in order to bring about lasting solutions and put an end to obstetric fistula, maternal mortality and related morbidities, including through ensuring access to affordable, comprehensive, quality maternal health-care services, including skilled birth attendance and emergency obstetric care;

(c) To strengthen the capacity of health systems, in particular public health systems, to provide the essential services needed to prevent obstetric fistula and to treat those cases that do occur by providing the continuum of services, including family planning, prenatal care, skilled birth attendance, emergency obstetric care and post-partum care, to young women and girls, including those living in poverty and in underserved rural areas where obstetric fistula is most common;

(d) To strengthen research, monitoring and evaluation systems, including community-based notification of obstetric fistula cases and maternal and newborn deaths, to guide the implementation of maternal health programmes;

(e) To provide essential health services, equipment and supplies and skills training and income-generating projects to women and girls so that they can break out of the cycle of poverty;

(f) To mobilize funding to provide free or subsidized fistula repairs, including through encouraging more networking among providers and the sharing of new treatment techniques and protocols;

(g) To improve data collection, pre- and post-surgery, to measure progress in addressing the needs for surgical treatment and the quality of surgery, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration services, including post-surgery prospects for successful subsequent pregnancies, live birth and severe health-related complications so as to address the challenges for improving maternal health;

(h) To provide health education, rehabilitation and socio-economic reintegration counselling, including medical counselling, as key components of post-operative care to all women after fistula treatment, including to those with irreparable cases;

(i) To bring obstetric fistula to the attention of policymakers and communities, thereby reducing the stigma and discrimination associated with it and helping women and girls suffering from obstetric fistula so that they can overcome abandonment and social exclusion together with the psychosocial implications thereof, inter alia, through the support of social reintegration projects;

(j) To educate individual women and men, girls and boys, communities, policymakers and health professionals about how obstetric fistula can be prevented and treated, and increase awareness of the needs of pregnant women and girls, as well as those who have undergone surgical fistula repair, including their right to the highest attainable standard of health, by working with community and religious leaders, traditional birth attendants, women and girls who have suffered from fistula, the media, radio stations, influential public figures and policymakers, support the training of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers in lifesaving obstetric care, and include training on fistula repair, treatment and care as a standard element of the training curricula of health professionals;

(k) To develop means of transportation and financing that enable women and girls to access obstetric care and treatment, and provide incentives and other means to secure the presence in rural areas of qualified health professionals who are able to perform interventions to prevent obstetric fistula;

10. *Encourages* communication and networking among existing fistula centres to facilitate training, research, advocacy and fund-raising and the development and application of relevant standards, including *Obstetric Fistula: Guiding Principles for Clinical Management and Programme Development*, published in 2006 by the World Health Organization, which provides background information and principles for developing fistula prevention and treatment strategies and programmes;

11. *Urges* the international community to address the shortages of doctors, midwives, nurses and other health workers trained in lifesaving obstetric care, and of space and supplies, that limit the capacity of most fistula centres;

12. *Also urges* multilateral donors, and invites international financial institutions, within their respective mandates, and regional development banks to review and implement policies to support national efforts to ensure that a higher proportion of resources reaches young women and girls, in particular in rural and remote areas;

13. *Invites* Member States to contribute to efforts to end obstetric fistula, including, in particular, the United Nations Population Fund global Campaign to End Fistula, with the goal of eliminating obstetric fistula by 2015, in line with the targets of the Millennium Development Goal of improving maternal health;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution under the item entitled "Advancement of women".

Draft resolution III
International Widows' Day

The General Assembly,

Recalling all its relevant resolutions, including the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[1] as well as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[2] the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[3] the outcomes of major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic and social fields, and, in particular, the agreed conclusions from the forty-sixth session of the Commission on the Status of Women endorsing the eradication of poverty through the empowerment of women throughout their life cycle and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[4] adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women in 1995,

Recalling also the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[5] in particular article 3, according to which parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women,

Affirming that ensuring and promoting the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women is critical to achieving all internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Emphasizing that the economic empowerment of women, including widows, is a critical factor in the eradication of poverty,

Recognizing that all aspects of the lives of widowed women and their children are, in many parts of the world, negatively affected by various economic, social and cultural factors, including, inter alia, lack of access to inheritance, land tenure, employment and/or livelihood, social safety nets, health care and education,

Recognizing the link existing between the situation of widows and that of their children,

Deeply concerned that millions of widows' children face hunger, malnutrition, child labour, difficult access to health care, water and sanitation, loss of schooling, illiteracy and human trafficking,

Reaffirming that women, including widowed women, should be an integral part of the society in the State where they reside, and recalling the importance of positive steps on the part of Member States to that end,

Emphasizing the need to give special attention to the situation of widows and their children, including those living in rural areas,

1. *Decides* with effect from 2011 to observe International Widows' Day on 23 June each year;

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[1] Resolution 55/2.

[2] Resolution 217 A (III).

[3] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[4] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.

2. *Calls upon* Member States, the United Nations system and other international and regional organizations, within their respective mandates, to give special attention to the situation of widows and their children;

3. *Invites* all Member States, relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other international organizations, as well as civil society, to observe International Widows' Day and to raise awareness of the situation of widows and their children around the world;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to take necessary measures, within existing resources, for the observance by the United Nations of International Widows' Day.

Draft resolution IV
Trafficking in women and girls

The General Assembly,

Reiterating its strong condemnation of trafficking in persons, especially women and children, which constitutes a serious threat to human dignity, human rights and development,

Recalling all international conventions that deal specifically with and address issues relevant to the problem of trafficking in women and girls, such as the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocols thereto, in particular the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[2] and the Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[3] the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[7] the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others,[8] as well as previous resolutions of the General Assembly and its subsidiary body the Human Rights Council, and the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions on the issue,

Reaffirming the provisions pertaining to trafficking in women and girls contained in the outcome documents of relevant international conferences and summits, in particular the strategic objective on the issue of trafficking contained in the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted by the Fourth World Conference on Women,[9]

Reaffirming also the commitment made by world leaders at the Millennium Summit, the 2005 World Summit and the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals to devise, enforce and strengthen effective measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in persons to counter the demand for trafficked victims and to protect the victims,

Welcoming the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons[10] by the General Assembly on 30 July 2010,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.
[2] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.
[3] Ibid., vol. 2241, No. 39574.
[4] Ibid., vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[5] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.
[6] Ibid., vol. 1577, No. 27531.
[7] Ibid., vol. 2171, No. 27531.
[8] Ibid., vol. 96, No. 1342.
[9] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.
[10] Resolution 64/293.

Welcoming the resolutions on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, adopted by the Human Rights Council, in particular resolutions 11/3 of 17 June 2009, on trafficking in persons, especially women and children,[11] and 14/2 of 17 June 2010, entitled "Trafficking in persons, especially women and children: regional and subregional cooperation in promoting a human rights-based approach to combating trafficking in persons",[12]

Noting with appreciation the steps taken, including the reports of human rights treaty bodies and the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on violence against women, its causes and consequences, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, and United Nations agencies and other concerned intergovernmental and governmental organizations, within their existing mandates, as well as civil society, to address the serious crime of trafficking in persons, and encourages them to continue doing so and to share their knowledge and best practices as widely as possible,

Recalling the *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons* published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in February 2009 and the attention paid in it to the situation of trafficked women and girls, as well as other relevant reports of the Office on trafficking in persons,

Taking note of the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008, within the framework of the Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking, and of the thematic debates on the issue of trafficking in persons, held on 3 June 2008 and 13 May 2009 within the framework of the General Assembly,

Taking note also of the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and of the fact that part of her task is to integrate a gender- and age-specific perspective throughout the work of her mandate, inter alia, through the identification of gender- and age-specific vulnerabilities in relation to the issue of trafficking in persons,

Acknowledging the inclusion of gender-related crimes in the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court,[13] which entered into force on 1 July 2002,

Bearing in mind that all States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent, investigate and punish perpetrators of trafficking in persons, and to rescue victims as well as provide for their protection, and that not doing so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of the victims,

Seriously concerned that an increasing number of women and girls are being trafficked, including to developed countries, as well as within and between regions

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[11] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 53* (A/64/53), chap. III, sect. A.

[12] Ibid., *Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 53* and corrigendum (A/65/53 and Corr.1), chap. III, sect. A.

[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2187, No. 38544.

and States, and that men and boys are also victims of trafficking, including for sexual exploitation,

Recognizing that certain efforts against trafficking in persons lack the gender and age sensitivity needed to address effectively the situation of women and girls, who are particularly vulnerable to trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation, forced labour, services and other forms of exploitation, thus highlighting the need to incorporate a gender- and age-sensitive approach in all anti-trafficking efforts,

Recognizing also the need to address the impact of globalization on the particular problem of trafficking in women and children, in particular girls,

Recognizing further that, despite the progress made, challenges to combating trafficking in women and girls remain, and that further efforts should be made to adopt adequate legislation and to implement existing legislation, and to continue improving the collection of reliable sex-disaggregated data and statistics that would allow proper analysis of the nature and extent of trafficking in women and girls,

Concerned about the use of new information technologies, including the Internet, for purposes of exploitation of the prostitution of others, for trafficking in women as brides, for sex tourism exploiting women and children and for child pornography, paedophilia and any other forms of sexual exploitation of children,

Concerned also about the increasing activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from international trafficking in persons, especially women and children, without regard to dangerous and inhuman conditions and in flagrant violation of domestic laws and international standards,

Recognizing that victims of trafficking are particularly exposed to racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and that women and girl victims are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination and violence, including on the grounds of their gender, age, ethnicity, culture and religion, as well as their origins, and that those forms of discrimination themselves may fuel trafficking in persons,

Noting that some of the demand for prostitution and forced labour is met by trafficking in persons in some parts of the world,

Acknowledging that women and girl victims of trafficking, on account of their gender, are further disadvantaged and marginalized by a general lack of information on or awareness and recognition of their human rights and by the stigmatization often associated with trafficking, as well as by the obstacles they meet in gaining access to information and recourse mechanisms in cases of violation of their rights, and that special measures are required for their protection and to increase their awareness,

Reaffirming the importance of bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Reaffirming also that global efforts, including international cooperation and technical assistance programmes, to eradicate trafficking in persons, especially

women and children, demand the strong political commitment, shared responsibility and active cooperation of all Governments of countries of origin, transit and destination,

Recognizing that policies and programmes for prevention, rehabilitation, repatriation and reintegration should be developed through a gender- and age-sensitive, comprehensive and multidisciplinary approach, with concern for the security of the victims and respect for the full enjoyment of their human rights and with the involvement of all actors in countries of origin, transit and destination,

Convinced of the need to protect and assist all victims of trafficking, with full respect for the human rights of the victims,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on trafficking in women and girls,[14] which outlines concrete measures, addressing them to States and other stakeholders, to prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons, especially women and children;

2. *Urges* Member States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to, as a matter of priority, the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[1] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,[2] taking into consideration the central role of those instruments in the fight against trafficking in persons, and urges States parties to those instruments to implement them fully and effectively;

3. *Urges* Member States, the United Nations and other international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as civil society, including non-governmental organizations, the private sector and the media, to fully and effectively implement the relevant provisions of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons and the activities outlined therein;

4. *Urges* Governments to consider signing and ratifying and States parties to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[4] and the Optional Protocol thereto,[5] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child[6] and the Optional Protocol thereto on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography,[7] as well as the Convention concerning Forced or Compulsory Labour, 1930 (Convention No. 29), the Convention concerning Discrimination in respect of Employment and Occupation, 1958 (Convention No. 111) and the Convention concerning the Prohibition and Immediate Action for the Elimination of the Worst Forms of Child Labour, 1999 (Convention No. 182), of the International Labour Organization;

5. *Welcomes* the efforts of Governments, United Nations bodies and agencies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to address the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls, and encourages them to further enhance their efforts and cooperation, including by sharing their knowledge, technical expertise and best practices as widely as possible;

6. *Encourages* the United Nations system to mainstream, as appropriate, the issue of trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, into its broader policies

[14] A/65/209.

and programmes aimed at addressing economic and social development, human rights, the rule of law, good governance, education, health, and natural disaster and post-conflict reconstruction;

7. *Calls upon* Governments to address, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters the trafficking of women and girls for all forms of exploitation, and in this regard to enhance preventive measures, including legislative measures, to deter exploiters of trafficked persons, as well as ensure their accountability;

8. *Also calls upon* Governments to take appropriate measures to address the factors that increase vulnerability to being trafficked, including poverty and gender inequality, as well as other factors that encourage the particular problem of trafficking in women and girls for prostitution and other forms of commercialized sex, forced marriage, forced labour and organ removal, in order to prevent and eliminate such trafficking, including by strengthening existing legislation with a view to providing better protection of the rights of women and girls and to punishing perpetrators including public officials engaging in or facilitating human trafficking, through, as appropriate, criminal and/or civil measures;

9. *Calls upon* Governments, the international community and all other organizations and entities that deal with conflict and post-conflict, disaster and other emergency situations to address the heightened vulnerability of women and girls to trafficking and exploitation and associated gender-based violence;

10. *Urges* Governments to devise, enforce and strengthen effective gender- and age-sensitive measures to combat and eliminate all forms of trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual and economic exploitation, as part of a comprehensive anti-trafficking strategy that integrates a human rights perspective, and to draw up, as appropriate, national action plans in this regard;

11. *Also urges* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to support and allocate resources to strengthen preventive action, in particular education for women and men, as well as for girls and boys, on gender equality, self-respect and mutual respect, and campaigns, carried out in collaboration with civil society, to increase public awareness of the issue at the national and grass-roots levels;

12. *Reiterates* the importance of continued coordination among, inter alia, the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, the Special Rapporteur of the Council on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the Special Rapporteur of the Council on contemporary forms of slavery in order to avoid unnecessary duplication in their activities in fulfilment of their mandates;

13. *Encourages* Governments to take appropriate measures to eliminate sex tourism demand, especially for children, through all possible preventive actions;

14. *Urges* Governments to develop educational and training programmes and policies and consider, as appropriate, enacting legislation aimed at preventing sex tourism and trafficking, giving special emphasis to the protection of young women and children;

15. *Encourages* Member States to strengthen national programmes and to engage in bilateral, subregional, regional and international cooperation, including by

forging regional initiatives or plans of action,[15] to address the problem of trafficking in persons through, inter alia, the enhancement of information-sharing, gender- and age-specific data collection and other technical capacities, and mutual legal assistance, as well as the combating of corruption and laundering of proceeds derived from trafficking, including for purposes of commercial sexual exploitation, and to ensure, as appropriate, that such agreements and initiatives are particularly responsive to the problem of trafficking as it affects women and girls;

16. *Calls upon* all Governments to criminalize all forms of trafficking in persons, recognizing its increasing occurrence for purposes of sexual exploitation, commercial sexual exploitation and abuse, sex tourism and forced labour, and to bring to justice and punish the offenders and intermediaries involved, including public officials involved with trafficking in persons, whether local or foreign, through the competent national authorities, either in the country of origin of the offender or in the country in which the abuse occurs, in accordance with due process of law, as well as to penalize persons in authority found guilty of sexually assaulting victims of trafficking in their custody;

17. *Urges* Governments to take all appropriate measures to ensure that victims of trafficking are not penalized or prosecuted for acts committed as a direct result of being trafficked and that they do not suffer from revictimization as a result of actions taken by Government authorities, and encourages Governments to prevent, within their legal framework and in accordance with national policies, victims of trafficking in persons from being prosecuted for their illegal entry or residence;

18. *Invites* Governments to consider setting up or strengthening a national coordinating mechanism, for example, a national rapporteur or an inter-agency body, with the participation of civil society, as appropriate, including non-governmental organizations, to encourage the exchange of information and to report on data, root causes, factors and trends in trafficking in persons, especially women and girls, and to include data on victims of trafficking disaggregated by sex and age;

19. *Encourages* Governments and relevant United Nations bodies, within existing resources, to take appropriate measures to raise public awareness of the issue of trafficking in persons, particularly women and girls, including the factors that make women and girls vulnerable to trafficking; to discourage, with a view to eliminating, the demand that fosters all forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation and forced labour; to publicize the laws, regulations and penalties relating to this issue; and to emphasize that trafficking is a serious crime;

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[15] Such as the Bali Process on People Smuggling, Trafficking in Persons and Related Transnational Crime, the Coordinated Mekong Ministerial Initiative against Trafficking, the Action Plan for the Asia-Pacific region of the Asian Regional Initiative against Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children (see A/C.3/55/3, annex), the initiatives of the European Union on a comprehensive European policy and programmes on trafficking in human beings, as expressed most recently in the European Union plan on best practices, standards and procedures for combating and preventing trafficking in human beings, adopted in December 2005, the activities of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation Convention on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Women and Children for Prostitution, the Organization of American States Meeting of National Authorities on Trafficking in Persons, and the activities of the International Labour Organization and the International Organization for Migration in this field.

20. *Calls upon* concerned Governments to allocate resources, as appropriate, to provide access to appropriate programmes for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking, including through job training, legal assistance in a language that they can understand and health care, including for HIV/AIDS, and by taking measures to cooperate with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to provide for the social, medical and psychological care of the victims;

21. *Encourages* Governments, in cooperation with intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to undertake or strengthen campaigns aimed at clarifying opportunities, limitations and rights in the event of migration, as well as information on the risks of irregular migration and the ways and means used by traffickers, so as to enable women to make informed decisions and to prevent them from becoming victims of trafficking;

22. *Also encourages* Governments to intensify collaboration with non-governmental organizations to develop and implement gender- and age-sensitive programmes for effective counselling, training and reintegration into society of victims of trafficking and programmes that provide shelter and helplines to victims or potential victims;

23. *Urges* Governments to provide or strengthen training for, and to raise awareness among, law enforcement, judicial, immigration and other relevant officials on the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, including the sexual exploitation of women and girls, and in this regard calls upon Governments to ensure that the treatment of victims of trafficking, especially by law enforcement officials, immigration officers, consular officials, social workers and other first response officials, is conducted with full respect for the human rights of those victims and with gender and age sensitivity, and observes the principles of non-discrimination, including the prohibition of racial discrimination;

24. *Invites* Governments to take steps to ensure that criminal justice procedures and witness protection programmes are sensitive to the particular situation of trafficked women and girls and that they are supported and assisted, as appropriate, in making complaints to the police or other authorities without fear and being available when required by the criminal justice system, and to ensure that during this time they have access to gender- and age-sensitive protection and, as appropriate, social, medical, financial and legal assistance, including the possibility of obtaining compensation for damages suffered;

25. *Also invites* Governments to encourage media providers, including Internet service providers, to adopt or strengthen self-regulatory measures to promote the responsible use of media, particularly the Internet, with a view to eliminating the exploitation of women and children, in particular girls, which could foster trafficking;

26. *Invites* the business sector, in particular the tourism, travel and telecommunications industries, including mass media organizations, to cooperate with Governments in eliminating trafficking in women and children, in particular girls, including through the dissemination by the media of information regarding the dangers of trafficking, the means used by traffickers, the rights of trafficked persons and the services available to victims of trafficking;

27. *Stresses* the need for the systematic collection of sex- and age-disaggregated data and comprehensive studies at both the national and the international levels and the development of common methodologies and internationally defined indicators to make it possible to develop relevant and comparable figures, and encourages Governments to enhance information-sharing and data-collection capacity as a way of promoting cooperation to combat the trafficking problem;

28. *Invites* Governments, United Nations bodies, agencies and special mechanisms, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the private sector to undertake collaborative and joint research and studies on trafficking in women and girls that can serve as a basis for policy formulation or change;

29. *Also invites* Governments, with the support of the United Nations, when necessary, and other intergovernmental organizations, taking into account best practices, to formulate training manuals and other informational materials and provide training for law enforcement, judicial and other relevant officers, and medical and support personnel, with a view to sensitizing them to the special needs of women and girl victims;

30. *Encourages* Governments, relevant intergovernmental bodies and international organizations to ensure that military, peacekeeping and humanitarian personnel deployed in conflict, post-conflict and other emergency situations are provided with training on conduct that does not promote, facilitate or exploit trafficking in women and girls, including for sexual exploitation, and to raise the awareness of such personnel of the potential risks to victims of conflict and other emergency situations, including natural disasters, of being trafficked;

31. *Invites* States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,[4] the Convention on the Rights of the Child[3] and the International Covenants on Human Rights[16] to include information and statistics on trafficking in women and girls as part of their national reports to their respective committees and to work towards developing a common methodology and statistics to obtain comparable data;

32. *Invites* States to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund for Victims of Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children;

33. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session a report that compiles successful interventions and strategies, as well as the gaps, in addressing the gender dimensions of the problem of trafficking in persons and provides recommendations on the strengthening of a human rights-based, gender- and age-sensitive approaches within comprehensive and balanced efforts to address trafficking in persons.

[16] Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Draft resolution V
Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly

The General Assembly,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the question, including resolution 64/141 of 18 December 2009,

Deeply convinced that the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century"[2] are important contributions to the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and must be translated into effective action by all States, the United Nations system and other organizations concerned,

Reaffirming the commitments to gender equality and the advancement of women made at the Millennium Summit,[3] the 2005 World Summit,[4] the High-level Plenary Meeting of the sixty-fifth session of the General Assembly on the Millennium Development Goals[5] and other major United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions, and reaffirming also that their full, effective and accelerated implementation is integral to achieving the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

Welcoming progress made towards achieving gender equality, but stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session,

Recognizing that the responsibility for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session rests primarily at the national level and that strengthened efforts are necessary in this respect, and reiterating that enhanced international cooperation is essential for full, effective and accelerated implementation,

Noting the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women,[6]

Welcoming the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in reviewing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and noting with appreciation all its agreed conclusions,

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[1] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] Resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[3] See resolution 55/2.

[4] See resolution 60/1.

[5] See resolution 65/1.

[6] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2010, Supplement No. 7* (E/2010/27), chap. I, sect. A.

Welcoming the adoption of General Assembly resolution 64/289 of 2 July 2010 on system-wide coherence, in particular the establishment of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women),

Welcoming the appointment of Michelle Bachelet, former President of Chile, as Under-Secretary-General and head of the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women),

Looking forward to the timely, effective and efficient operationalization of UN Women and noting the importance of the early elaboration of the forthcoming strategic plan and budget for its operationalization, and stressing the need to meet the initial funding requirement to this end,

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for promoting the empowerment of women and achieving gender equality by transforming structures of inequality, and reaffirming also the commitment to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres, as well as the commitment to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender equality,

Taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[7] and stressing the importance of the continued integration of a gender perspective in the work and activities of the Human Rights Council,

Reaffirming the commitments in regard to gender equality and the empowerment of women in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development: outcome document of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[8]

Bearing in mind the challenges and obstacles to changing discriminatory attitudes and gender stereotypes, which perpetuate discrimination against women and stereotypic roles of men and women, and stressing that challenges and obstacles remain in the implementation of international standards and norms to address the inequality between men and women,

Reaffirming the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS[9] and the Political Declaration on HIV/AIDS adopted at the High-level Meeting on HIV/AIDS, held from 31 May to 2 June 2006,[10] which, inter alia, acknowledged the feminization of the pandemic,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet, and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, as reflected in the

[7] E/2010/57.

[8] Resolution 63/239, annex.

[9] Resolution S-26/2, annex.

[10] Resolution 60/262, annex.

report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[11]

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding,

Recalling Security Council resolutions 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, 1820 (2008) of 19 June 2008, 1888 (2009) of 30 September 2009 and 1889 (2009) of 5 October 2009 on women and peace and security and resolution 1882 (2009) of 4 August 2009 on children and armed conflict,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on the measures taken and progress achieved in follow-up to the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly;[12]

2. *Reaffirms* the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women[1] and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[2] as well as the declaration adopted on the occasion of the ten-year review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action at the forty-ninth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, and also reaffirms its commitment to their full, effective and accelerated implementation;

3. *Also reaffirms* the primary and essential role of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as the catalytic role of the Commission on the Status of Women, in promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women based on the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the fulfilment of the obligations of States parties under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women[13] are mutually reinforcing in respect of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women, and in this regard welcomes the contributions of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to promoting the implementation of the Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and invites States parties to the Convention to include information on measures taken to enhance implementation at the national level in their reports to the Committee under article 18 of the Convention;

5. *Calls upon* States parties to comply fully with their obligations under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto[14] and to take into consideration the concluding observations as well as the general recommendations of the Committee, urges States parties to consider limiting the extent of any reservations that they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservations as precisely and narrowly as possible,

[11] A/65/334.
[12] A/65/204.
[13] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, No. 20378.
[14] Ibid., vol. 2131, No. 20378.

and to regularly review such reservations with a view to withdrawing them so as to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention, also urges all Member States that have not yet ratified or acceded to the Convention to consider doing so, and calls upon those Member States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying or acceding to the Optional Protocol;

6. *Welcomes* the establishment of UN Women, which consolidates mandates and functions of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women, the Division for the Advancement of Women, the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, with the additional role of leading, coordinating and promoting the accountability of the United Nations system in its work on gender equality and the empowerment of women, as established under General Assembly resolution 64/289;

7. *Recognizes* the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Commission on the Status of Women, as the multitiered intergovernmental governance structure for the normative support functions that shall provide normative policy guidance for UN Women;

8. *Recognizes* the role of the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and the Executive Board of UN Women, as the multitiered intergovernmental governance structure for the operational activities that shall provide operational policy guidance for UN Women;

9. *Urges* Member States to ensure adequate funding for the budget of UN Women by providing, when legislative and budgetary provisions allow, core, multi-year, predictable, stable and sustainable voluntary contributions to enable UN Women to promptly and effectively plan and carry out its mandate;

10. *Welcomes* the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council in 2010 on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women";[15]

11. *Endorses* the declaration adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fourth session on the occasion of the fifteenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women;[6]

12. *Encourages* all actors, inter alia, Governments, the United Nations system, other international organizations and civil society, to continue to support the work of the Commission on the Status of Women in fulfilling its central role in the follow-up to and review of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, and, as applicable, to carry out its recommendations, and welcomes in this regard the revised programme and methods of work of the Commission adopted at its fifty-third session,[16] which continue to focus attention on the sharing of experiences, lessons learned and good practices in overcoming challenges to full implementation at the national and international levels as well as to the evaluation of progress in the implementation of priority themes;

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[15] See A/65/3, chap. III, sect. F; for the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/65/3/Rev.1).

[16] See Economic and Social Council resolution 2009/15.

13. *Calls upon* Governments and the organs and relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and other international and regional organizations, including financial institutions, and all relevant actors of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to intensify action to achieve the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

14. *Reaffirms* that States have an obligation to exercise due diligence to prevent violence against women and girls, provide protection to the victims and investigate, prosecute and punish the perpetrators of violence against women and girls, and that failure to do so violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms, calls upon Governments to elaborate and implement laws and strategies to eliminate violence against women and girls, encourages and supports men and boys in taking an active part in the prevention and elimination of all forms of violence, encourages increased understanding among men and boys of how violence harms girls, boys, women and men and undermines gender equality, encourages all actors to speak out against any violence against women, and in this regard encourages Member States to continue to support the ongoing campaign of the Secretary-General "UNiTE to End Violence against Women" and the UN Women social mobilization and advocacy platform "Say NO to violence against women";

15. *Reiterates* its call to the United Nations system, including the main organs, their main committees and subsidiary bodies, functions such as the annual ministerial review and the Development Cooperation Forum of the Economic and Social Council, and the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, to increase efforts to fully mainstream a gender perspective into all issues under their consideration and within their mandates, as well as in all United Nations summits, conferences and special sessions and in their follow-up processes, including the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries in 2011, the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development in 2012 ("Rio plus 20") and the review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing at the fifty-first session of the Commission for Social Development, in 2013;

16. *Requests* that the entities of the United Nations system systematically incorporate the outcomes of the Commission on the Status of Women into their work within their mandates, inter alia, to ensure effective support for the efforts of Member States towards the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

17. *Strongly encourages* Governments to continue to support the role and contribution of civil society, in particular non-governmental organizations and women's organizations, in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session;

18. *Requests* that reports of the Secretary-General submitted to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council and their subsidiary bodies systematically address gender perspectives through qualitative gender analysis, sex- and age-disaggregated data and, where available, quantitative data, in particular through concrete conclusions and recommendations for further action on gender equality and the empowerment of women, in order to facilitate gender-sensitive policy development;

19. *Encourages* Member States, with the support of, as appropriate, United Nations entities, including UN Women, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors, to prioritize the strengthening of national data collection and monitoring capacities, with regard to statistics disaggregated by sex and age, as well as national tracking indicators for gender equality and the empowerment of women through multisectoral efforts and partnerships;

20. *Calls upon* all parts of the United Nations system to continue to play an active role in ensuring the full, effective and accelerated implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, through, inter alia, the maintenance of gender specialists in all entities of the United Nations system, as well as by ensuring that all personnel, especially in the field, receive training and appropriate follow-up, including tools, guidance and support, for accelerated gender mainstreaming, and reaffirms the need to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender;

21. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review and redouble his efforts to make progress towards achieving the goal of 50/50 gender balance at all levels throughout the United Nations system, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, considering, in particular, women from developing and least developed countries, from countries with economies in transition and from unrepresented or largely underrepresented Member States, and to ensure managerial and departmental accountability with respect to gender balance targets, and strongly encourages Member States to identify and regularly submit more women candidates for appointment to positions in the United Nations system, especially at more senior and policymaking levels, including in peacekeeping operations;

22. *Calls upon* the United Nations system to continue its efforts towards achieving the goal of gender balance, including with the active support of gender focal points, and requests the Secretary-General to provide an oral report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-fifth session, and to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-seventh session on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system, under the item entitled "Advancement of women", and on progress made and obstacles encountered in achieving gender balance, recommendations for accelerating progress, and up-to-date statistics, including the number and percentage of women and their functions and nationalities throughout the United Nations system, and information on the responsibility and accountability of the offices of human resources management and the secretariat of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for promoting gender balance;

23. *Encourages* increased efforts by Governments and the United Nations system to enhance accountability for the implementation of commitments to gender equality and the empowerment of women at the international, regional and national levels, including by improved monitoring and reporting on progress in relation to policies, strategies, resource allocations and programmes, and by achieving gender balance;

24. *Reaffirms* that Governments bear the primary responsibility for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women and that international cooperation has an essential role in assisting developing countries in

progressing towards the full implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

25. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to report annually to the General Assembly under the item entitled "Advancement of women", as well as to the Commission on the Status of Women and the Economic and Social Council, on the follow-up to and progress made in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session, with an assessment of progress in gender mainstreaming, including information on key achievements, lessons learned and good practices, and recommendations on further measures to enhance implementation.

39. The Third Committee also recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Reports considered by the General Assembly in connection with the advancement of women

The General Assembly decides to take note of the following reports submitted under the item entitled "Advancement of women":

(a) Report of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on its forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions;[1]

(b) Note by the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations Development Fund for Women.[2]

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session Supplement No. 38* (A/65/38).

[2] A/65/218.

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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions

Report of the Third Committee

Rapporteur: Mr. Asif **Garayev** (Azerbaijan)

I. Introduction

1. At its 2nd plenary meeting, on 17 September 2010, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its sixty-fifth session the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions" and to allocate it to the Third Committee.

2. The Third Committee considered the item at its 38th, 40th, 41st, 43rd, 46th and 51st meetings, on 2, 3, 4, 9, 16 and 23 November 2010. An account of the Committee's discussion is contained in the relevant summary records (A/C.3/65/SR.38, 40, 41, 43, 46 and 51).

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[1]

(b) Report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[2]

(c) Report of the Secretary-General on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa (A/65/324).

4. At the 38th meeting, on 2 November, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees made an introductory statement, and engaged in a dialogue with the representatives of Pakistan, Brazil, Norway, Yemen, Zimbabwe, Cameroon, Algeria,

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/65/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/65/12/Add.1).

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Costa Rica, the Russian Federation, Chile, the Syrian Arab Republic and Timor-Leste and the observer for the European Union (see A/C.3/65/SR.38).

II. Consideration of proposals

A. Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.24 and Rev.1

5. At the 41st meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Turkmenistan, on behalf of Albania, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Cameroon, Croatia, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Togo, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" which read:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Taking note* of Economic and Social Council decision 2010/246 of 22 July 2010 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

"*Taking note also* of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 9 September 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the note verbale dated 23 October 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat, the note verbale dated 27 October 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the letter dated 9 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the letter dated 19 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,

"1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from seventy-nine to eighty-four States;

"2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2011."

6. At its 46th meeting, on 16 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/65/L.24/Rev.1) submitted by Afghanistan, Albania, Azerbaijan, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Cameroon, the Congo, Croatia, Egypt, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Togo, Turkmenistan and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

7. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/64/L.24/Rev.1 (see para. 14, draft resolution I).

B. Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.56

8. At the 43rd meeting, on 9 November, the representative of Sierra Leone, on behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States, as well as Haiti and Portugal, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa" (A/C.3/65/L.56) and orally revised it by replacing the fourth preambular paragraph, which read:

> "*Gravely concerned* by the deteriorating condition in some of the refugee camps in Africa,"

with the following:

> "*Gravely concerned* about the poor living conditions of a large number of refugees and displaced persons in many regions in Africa,".

9. At the 51st meeting, on 23 November, the representative of Sierra Leone, on behalf of the sponsors, now joined by Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Honduras, Iceland, India, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, further revised the text as follows:[3]

(a) At the end of the third preambular paragraph, the words "and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence" were added;

(b) The revised fourth preambular paragraph was replaced with the following text:

> "*Acknowledging* the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees, and expressing grave concern about the deteriorating living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa";

(c) In the sixth preambular paragraph, after the word "adoption" the words "and the ongoing ratification process" were inserted;

(d) In the seventh preambular paragraph, after the words "Great Lakes Region", the words "adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006" were inserted;

(e) Operative paragraph 8, which read:

> "8. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its sixty-first session of its conclusions on protracted refugee situations and on refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by the Office of the High Commissioner",

was replaced by:

[3] Subsequently, Sweden indicated that it had intended to sponsor the draft resolution.

"8. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the conclusion on protracted refugee situations, at the extraordinary meeting of 8 December 2009 of its sixty-first session, and the conclusion on refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by the Office of the High Commissioner, at its sixty-first session, held from 4 to 8 October 2010".

10. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.56 as orally revised (see para. 14, draft resolution II).

C. Draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.58

11. At the 41st meeting, on 4 November, the representative of Sweden, on behalf of Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Belarus, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Eritrea, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees" (A/C.3/65/L.58).

12. At the 43rd meeting, on 9 November, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Czech Republic, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Jamaica, Madagascar, Malta, Micronesia (Federated States of), Morocco, New Zealand, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, the United States of America, Uruguay and Zambia joined in sponsoring the draft resolution.

13. Also at the same meeting, the Committee adopted draft resolution A/C.3/65/L.58 (see para. 14, draft resolution III).

III. Recommendations of the Third Committee

14. The Third Committee recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolutions:

Draft resolution I
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Taking note of Economic and Social Council decisions 2010/246 of 22 July 2010 and 2010/263 of 10 November 2010 concerning the enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees,

Taking note also of the request regarding the enlargement of the Executive Committee contained in the note verbale dated 9 September 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Cameroon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[1] the note verbale dated 23 October 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Togo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretariat,[2] the note verbale dated 27 October 2009 from the Permanent Mission of Bulgaria to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[3] the letter dated 9 February 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[4] the letter dated 19 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Croatia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[5] and the note verbale dated 12 July 2010 from the Permanent Mission of the Congo to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General,[6]

1. *Decides* to increase the number of members of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees from seventy-nine to eighty-five States;

2. *Requests* the Economic and Social Council to elect the additional members at its resumed organizational session for 2011.

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[1] E/2010/94.
[2] E/2010/95.
[3] E/2010/86.
[4] E/2010/96.
[5] E/2010/87.
[6] E/2010/103.

Draft resolution II
Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa

The General Assembly,

Recalling the Organization of African Unity Convention governing the specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa of 1969[1] and the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights,[2]

Reaffirming that the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees,[3] together with the 1967 Protocol thereto,[4] as complemented by the Organization of African Unity Convention of 1969, remains the foundation of the international refugee protection regime in Africa,

Recognizing the particular vulnerability of women and children among refugees and other persons of concern, including exposure to discrimination and sexual and physical abuse, and in this regard acknowledging the importance of preventing and responding to sexual and gender-based violence,

Acknowledging the efforts of Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and other stakeholders in improving the situation of refugees, and expressing grave concern about the deteriorating living conditions in many refugee camps in Africa,

Recognizing that refugees, internally displaced persons and, in particular, women and children are at an increased risk of exposure to HIV/AIDS, malaria and other infectious diseases,

Welcoming the adoption and the ongoing ratification process of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa,[5] which marks a significant step towards strengthening the national and regional normative framework for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons,

Noting with appreciation the Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region,[6] adopted by the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region in 2006, and its instruments, in particular two of the protocols to the Pact which are relevant to the protection of displaced persons, namely, the Protocol on the Protection of and Assistance to Internally Displaced Persons and the Protocol on the Property Rights of Returning Persons,

Recognizing that host States have the primary responsibility for the protection of and assistance to refugees on their territory, and the need to redouble efforts to develop and implement comprehensive durable solution strategies, in appropriate cooperation with the international community, and burden- and responsibility-sharing,

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[1] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1001, No. 14691.
[2] Ibid., vol. 1520, No. 26363.
[3] Ibid., vol. 189, No. 2545.
[4] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.
[5] Available from www.africa-union.org.
[6] Available from www.icglr.org.

Emphasizing that States have the primary responsibility to provide protection and assistance to internally displaced persons within their jurisdiction, as well as to address the root causes of the displacement problem in appropriate cooperation with the international community,

1. *Takes note* of the reports of the Secretary-General[7] and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[8]

2. *Calls upon* African Member States that have not yet signed or ratified the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa to consider doing so as early as possible in order to ensure its early entry into force and implementation;

3. *Notes* the need for African Member States to address resolutely the root causes of all forms of forced displacement in Africa and to foster peace, stability and prosperity throughout the African continent so as to forestall flows of refugees;

4. *Notes with great concern* that, despite all of the efforts made so far by the United Nations, the African Union and others, the situation of refugees and displaced persons in Africa remains precarious, and calls upon States and other parties to armed conflict to observe scrupulously the letter and spirit of international humanitarian law, bearing in mind that armed conflict is one of the principal causes of forced displacement in Africa;

5. *Welcomes* decision EX.CL/Dec.558(XVII) on the situation of refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons in Africa, adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union at its seventeenth ordinary session, held in Kampala from 19 to 23 July 2010;[9]

6. *Expresses its appreciation*, in the year which marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for the leadership shown by the Office, and commends the Office for its ongoing efforts, with the support of the international community, to assist African countries of asylum, including by providing support to vulnerable local host communities, and to respond to the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

7. *Notes with appreciation* the initiatives taken by the African Union, the Subcommittee on Refugees, Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons of its Permanent Representatives Committee, and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, in particular the role of its Special Rapporteur on Refugees, Asylum-Seekers, Migrants and Internally Displaced Persons in Africa, to ensure the protection of and assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa;

8. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees of the conclusion on protracted refugee situations,[10] at the extraordinary meeting of 8 December 2009 of its sixty-first session, and the conclusion on refugees with disabilities and other

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[7] A/65/324.

[8] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/65/12).

[9] See African Union document EX.CL/Dec.556-599(XVII). Available from www.africa-union.org.

[10] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/65/12/Add.1), annex II, sect. A.

persons with disabilities protected and assisted by the Office of the High Commissioner,[11] at its sixty-first session, held from 4 to 8 October 2010;

9. *Acknowledges* the important contribution of the age, gender and diversity mainstreaming strategy in identifying, through a participatory approach, the protection risks faced by the different members of the refugee community, in particular the non-discriminatory treatment and protection of refugee women and refugee children and minority groups of refugees;

10. *Affirms* that children, because of their age, social status and physical and mental development, are often more vulnerable than adults in situations of forced displacement, recognizes that forced displacement, return to post-conflict situations, integration in new societies, protracted situations of displacement and statelessness can increase child protection risks, taking into account the particular vulnerability of refugee children to forcible exposure to the risks of physical and psychological injury, exploitation and death in connection with armed conflict, and acknowledges that wider environmental factors and individual risk factors, particularly when combined, may generate different protection needs;

11. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

12. *Also recognizes* the importance of early registration and effective registration systems and censuses as a tool of protection and as a means to the quantification and assessment of needs for the provision and distribution of humanitarian assistance and to implement appropriate durable solutions;

13. *Recalls* the conclusion on registration of refugees and asylum-seekers adopted by the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees at its fifty-second session,[12] notes the many forms of harassment faced by refugees and asylum-seekers who remain without any form of documentation attesting to their status, recalls the responsibility of States to register refugees on their territories and, as appropriate, the responsibility of the Office of the High Commissioner or mandated international bodies to do so, reiterates in this context the central role that early and effective registration and documentation can play, guided by protection considerations, in enhancing protection and supporting efforts to find durable solutions, and calls upon the Office, as appropriate, to help States to conduct this procedure should they be unable to register refugees on their territory;

14. *Calls upon* the international community, including States and the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant United Nations organizations, within their respective mandates, to take concrete action to meet the protection and assistance needs of refugees, returnees and displaced persons and to contribute generously to projects and programmes aimed at alleviating their plight, facilitating durable solutions for refugees and displaced persons and supporting vulnerable local host communities;

15. *Reaffirms* the importance of timely and adequate assistance and protection for refugees, returnees and displaced persons, also reaffirms that

[11] Ibid., chap. III, sect. A.

[12] Ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 12A* (A/56/12/Add.1), chap. III, sect. B.

assistance and protection are mutually reinforcing and that inadequate material assistance and food shortages undermine protection, notes the importance of a rights- and community-based approach in engaging constructively with individual refugees, returnees and displaced persons and their communities so as to achieve fair and equitable access to food and other forms of material assistance, and expresses concern in regard to situations in which minimum standards of assistance are not met, including those in which adequate needs assessments have yet to be undertaken;

16. *Also reaffirms* that respect by States for their protection responsibilities towards refugees is strengthened by international solidarity involving all members of the international community and that the refugee protection regime is enhanced through committed international cooperation in a spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing among all States;

17. *Further reaffirms* that host States have the primary responsibility to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, calls upon States, in cooperation with international organizations, within their mandates, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection and, in particular, to ensure that the civilian and humanitarian nature of refugee camps is not compromised by the presence or the activities of armed elements or used for purposes that are incompatible with their civilian character, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors, to ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of camps;

18. *Condemns* all acts that pose a threat to the personal security and well being of refugees and asylum-seekers, such as refoulement, unlawful expulsion and physical attacks, calls upon States of refuge, in cooperation with international organizations, where appropriate, to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for the principles of refugee protection, including the humane treatment of asylum-seekers, notes with interest that the High Commissioner has continued to take steps to encourage the development of measures to better ensure the civilian and humanitarian character of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue those efforts, in consultation with States and other relevant actors;

19. *Deplores* the continuing violence and insecurity which constitute an ongoing threat to the safety and security of staff members of the Office of the High Commissioner and other humanitarian organizations and an obstacle to the effective fulfilment of the mandate of the Office and the ability of its implementing partners and other humanitarian personnel to discharge their respective humanitarian functions, urges States, parties to conflict and all other relevant actors to take all necessary measures to protect activities related to humanitarian assistance, prevent attacks on and kidnapping of national and international humanitarian workers and ensure the safety and security of the personnel and property of the Office and that of all humanitarian organizations discharging functions mandated by the Office, and calls upon States to investigate fully any crime committed against humanitarian personnel and bring to justice the persons responsible for such crimes;

20. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the African Union, subregional organizations and all African States, in conjunction with agencies of the United Nations system, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and the international community, to strengthen and revitalize existing partnerships and

forge new ones in support of the protection system for refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons;

21. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner, the international community and other entities concerned to intensify their support to African Governments through appropriate capacity-building activities, including training of relevant officers, disseminating information about refugee instruments and principles, providing financial, technical and advisory services to accelerate the enactment or amendment and implementation of legislation relating to refugees, strengthening emergency response and enhancing capacities for the coordination of humanitarian activities, in particular those Governments that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers;

22. *Reaffirms* the right of return and the principle of voluntary repatriation, appeals to countries of origin and countries of asylum to create conditions that are conducive to voluntary repatriation, and recognizes that, while voluntary repatriation remains the pre-eminent solution, local integration and third-country resettlement, where appropriate and feasible, are also viable options for dealing with the situation of African refugees who, owing to prevailing circumstances in their respective countries of origin, are unable to return home;

23. *Also reaffirms* that voluntary repatriation should not necessarily be conditioned on the accomplishment of political solutions in the country of origin in order not to impede the exercise of the refugees' right to return, recognizes that the voluntary repatriation and reintegration process is normally guided by the conditions in the country of origin, in particular that voluntary repatriation can be accomplished in conditions of safety and dignity, and urges the High Commissioner to promote sustainable return through the development of durable and lasting solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations;

24. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide financial and material assistance that allows for the implementation of community-based development programmes that benefit both refugees and host communities, as appropriate, in agreement with host countries and consistent with humanitarian objectives;

25. *Appeals* to the international community to respond positively, in the spirit of solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to the third-country resettlement needs of African refugees, notes in this regard the importance of using resettlement strategically, as part of situation-specific comprehensive responses to refugee situations, and to this end encourages States, the Office of the High Commissioner and other relevant partners to make full use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[13] where appropriate;

26. *Calls upon* the international donor community to provide material and financial assistance for the implementation of programmes intended for the rehabilitation of the environment and infrastructure affected by refugees in countries of asylum as well as internally displaced persons, where appropriate;

27. *Urges* the international community, in the spirit of international solidarity and burden-sharing, to continue to fund generously the refugee programmes of the Office of the High Commissioner and, taking into account the substantially

[13] Available from www.unhcr.org.

increased needs of programmes in Africa, inter alia, as a result of repatriation possibilities, to ensure that Africa receives a fair and equitable share of the resources designated for refugees;

28. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner and interested States to identify protracted refugee situations which might lend themselves to resolution through the development of specific, multilateral, comprehensive and practical approaches to resolving such refugee situations, including the improvement of international burden- and responsibility-sharing and the realization of durable solutions, within a multilateral context;

29. *Expresses grave concern* about the plight of internally displaced persons in Africa, notes the efforts of African States in strengthening the regional mechanisms for the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, calls upon States to take concrete action to pre-empt internal displacement and to meet the protection and assistance needs of internally displaced persons, recalls in that regard the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement,[14] takes note of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to the protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the refugee mandate of the Office and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

30. *Invites* the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons to continue his ongoing dialogue with Member States and the intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations concerned, in accordance with his mandate, and to include information thereon in his reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly;

31. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a comprehensive report on assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session, taking fully into account the efforts expended by countries of asylum, under the item entitled "Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, questions relating to refugees, returnees and displaced persons and humanitarian questions".

[14] E/CN.4/1998/53/Add.2, annex.

Draft resolution III
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

The General Assembly,

Having considered the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the activities of his Office[1] and the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-first session[2] and the conclusions and decisions contained therein,

Recalling its previous annual resolutions on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees since its establishment by the General Assembly,

Expressing its appreciation, in the year which marks the sixtieth anniversary of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, for the leadership shown by the High Commissioner, commending the staff and implementing partners of the Office of the High Commissioner for the competent, courageous and dedicated manner in which they discharge their responsibilities, and underlining its strong condemnation of all forms of violence to which humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel are increasingly exposed,

1. *Endorses* the report of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees on the work of its sixty-first session;[2]

2. *Welcomes* the important work undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and its Executive Committee in the course of the year, which is aimed at strengthening the international protection regime and at assisting Governments in meeting their protection responsibilities;

3. *Welcomes* the adoption by the Executive Committee of the conclusion on protracted refugee situations[3] and the conclusion on refugees with disabilities and other persons with disabilities protected and assisted by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees;[4]

4. *Reaffirms* the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees[5] and the 1967 Protocol thereto[6] as the foundation of the international refugee protection regime, recognizes the importance of their full and effective application by States parties and the values they embody, notes with satisfaction that one hundred and forty-seven States are now parties to one instrument or to both, encourages States not parties to consider acceding to those instruments, underlines, in particular, the importance of full respect for the principle of non-refoulement, and recognizes that a number of States not parties to the international refugee instruments have shown a generous approach to hosting refugees;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 12* (A/65/12).
[2] Ibid., *Supplement No. 12A* (A/65/12/Add.1)
[3] Ibid., annex II, sect. A.
[4] Ibid., chap. III, sect. A.
[5] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 189, No. 2545.
[6] Ibid., vol. 606, No. 8791.

5. *Notes* that sixty-five States are now parties to the 1954 Convention relating to the Status of Stateless Persons[7] and that thirty-seven States are parties to the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness,[8] encourages States that have not done so to give consideration to acceding to those instruments, notes the work of the High Commissioner in regard to identifying stateless persons, preventing and reducing statelessness and protecting stateless persons, and urges the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to work in this area in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions and Executive Committee conclusions;

6. *Welcomes* the initiative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to facilitate the convening of an intergovernmental event at the ministerial level on the occasion of the sixtieth anniversary of the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and of the fiftieth anniversary of the 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness, in consultation with States;

7. *Re-emphasizes* that the protection of refugees is primarily the responsibility of States, whose full and effective cooperation, action and political resolve are required to enable the Office of the High Commissioner to fulfil its mandated functions, and strongly emphasizes, in this context, the importance of active international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing;

8. *Also re-emphasizes* that prevention and reduction of statelessness are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

9. *Further re-emphasizes* that protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons are primarily the responsibility of States, in appropriate cooperation with the international community;

10. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to pursue its efforts to strengthen its capacity to respond adequately to emergencies and thereby ensure a more predictable response to inter-agency commitments in case of emergency;

11. *Takes note* of the current activities of the Office of the High Commissioner related to protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons, including in the context of inter-agency arrangements in this field, emphasizes that such activities should be consistent with relevant General Assembly resolutions and should not undermine the mandate of the Office for refugees and the institution of asylum, and encourages the High Commissioner to continue his dialogue with States on the role of his Office in this regard;

12. *Encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to work in partnership and in full cooperation with relevant national authorities, United Nations offices and agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations and non-governmental organizations to contribute to the continued development of humanitarian response capacities at all levels, and recalls the role of the Office as the cluster lead for protection, camp coordination and management, and emergency shelter in complex emergencies;

13. *Also encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner, among other relevant United Nations and other relevant intergovernmental organizations and

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[7] Ibid., vol. 360, No. 5158.

[8] Ibid., vol. 989, No. 14458.

humanitarian and development actors, to continue to work with the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat to enhance the coordination, effectiveness and efficiency of humanitarian assistance and to contribute, in consultation with States, as appropriate, to making further progress towards common humanitarian needs assessments, as stated, among other important issues, in General Assembly resolution 64/76 of 7 December 2009 on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;

14. *Further encourages* the Office of the High Commissioner to engage in and implement in full the objectives of the Delivering as One initiative;

15. *Notes with appreciation* the progress made in the implementation of the process of structural and management change, including the global needs assessment initiative, undertaken by the Office of the High Commissioner, and encourages the Office to consolidate the various aspects of the reform process, including the results-based management and accountability framework and strategy, and to focus on continuous improvement in order to enable a more efficient response to the needs of beneficiaries and to ensure the effective and transparent use of its resources;

16. *Strongly condemns* attacks on refugees, asylum-seekers and internally displaced persons as well as acts that pose a threat to their personal security and well-being, and calls upon all States concerned and, where applicable, parties involved in an armed conflict to take all necessary measures to ensure respect for human rights and international humanitarian law;

17. *Expresses deep concern* about the increasing number of attacks against humanitarian aid workers and convoys and, in particular, the loss of life of humanitarian personnel working in the most difficult and challenging conditions in order to assist those in need;

18. *Emphasizes* the need for States to ensure that perpetrators of attacks committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel and United Nations and associated personnel do not operate with impunity, and that the perpetrators of such acts are promptly brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

19. *Deplores* the refoulement and unlawful expulsion of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon all States concerned to ensure respect for the relevant principles of refugee protection and human rights;

20. *Emphasizes* that international protection of refugees is a dynamic and action-oriented function that is at the core of the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and that it includes, in cooperation with States and other partners, the promotion and facilitation of, inter alia, the admission, reception and treatment of refugees in accordance with internationally agreed standards and the ensuring of durable, protection-oriented solutions, bearing in mind the particular needs of vulnerable groups and paying special attention to those with specific needs, and notes in this context that the delivery of international protection is a staff-intensive service that requires adequate staff with the appropriate expertise, especially at the field level;

21. *Affirms* the importance of age, gender and diversity mainstreaming in analysing protection needs and in ensuring the participation of refugees and other

persons of concern to the Office of the High Commissioner, as appropriate, in the planning and implementation of programmes of the Office and State policies, and also affirms the importance of according priority to addressing discrimination, gender inequality and the problem of sexual and gender-based violence, recognizing the importance of addressing the protection needs of women and children in particular;

22. *Strongly reaffirms* the fundamental importance and the purely humanitarian and non-political character of the function of the Office of the High Commissioner of providing international protection to refugees and seeking permanent solutions to refugee problems, and recalls that those solutions include voluntary repatriation and, where appropriate and feasible, local integration and resettlement in a third country, while reaffirming that voluntary repatriation, supported, as necessary, by rehabilitation and development assistance to facilitate sustainable reintegration, remains the preferred solution;

23. *Expresses concern* about the particular difficulties faced by the millions of refugees in protracted situations, and emphasizes the need to redouble international efforts and cooperation to find practical and comprehensive approaches to resolving their plight and to realize durable solutions for them, consistent with international law and relevant General Assembly resolutions;

24. *Recognizes* the importance of achieving durable solutions to refugee problems and, in particular, the need to address in this process the root causes of refugee movements in order to avert new flows of refugees;

25. *Welcomes* the initiative of the High Commissioner to convene, in Geneva on 8 and 9 December 2010, the fourth Dialogue on Protection Challenges, on the theme "Protection gaps and responses";

26. *Recalls* the important role of effective partnerships and coordination in meeting the needs of refugees and in finding durable solutions to their situations, welcomes the efforts under way, in cooperation with countries hosting refugees and countries of origin, including their respective local communities, relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, as appropriate, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to promote a framework for durable solutions, particularly in protracted refugee situations, which includes an approach to sustainable and timely return that encompasses repatriation, reintegration, rehabilitation and reconstruction activities, and encourages States, in cooperation with relevant United Nations agencies, international and intergovernmental organizations, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations and development actors, to support, inter alia, through the allocation of funds, the implementation of such a framework to facilitate an effective transition from relief to development;

27. *Recognizes* that no solution to displacement can be durable unless it is sustainable, and therefore encourages the Office of the High Commissioner to support the sustainability of return and reintegration;

28. *Welcomes* the progress that has been achieved in increasing the number of refugees resettled and the number of States offering opportunities for resettlement, and the contribution that those States make to durable solutions for refugees, and invites interested States, the Office of the High Commissioner and

other relevant partners to make use of the Multilateral Framework of Understandings on Resettlement,[9] where appropriate and feasible;

29. *Notes with appreciation* the activities undertaken by States to strengthen the regional initiatives that facilitate cooperative policies and approaches on refugees, and encourages States to continue their efforts to address, in a comprehensive manner, the needs of the people who require international protection in their respective regions, including the support provided for host communities that receive large numbers of persons who require international protection;

30. *Notes* the importance of States and the Office of the High Commissioner discussing and clarifying the role of the Office in mixed migratory flows, in order to better address protection needs in the context of mixed migratory flows, including by safeguarding access to asylum for those in need of international protection, and notes the readiness of the High Commissioner, consistent with his mandate, to assist States in fulfilling their protection responsibilities in this regard;

31. *Emphasizes* the obligation of all States to accept the return of their nationals, calls upon States to facilitate the return of their nationals who have been determined not to be in need of international protection, and affirms the need for the return of persons to be undertaken in a safe and humane manner and with full respect for their human rights and dignity, irrespective of the status of the persons concerned;

32. *Expresses deep concern* about the challenges posed by climate change and environmental degradation to the protection activities of the Office of the High Commissioner and the assistance it provides to vulnerable populations of concern across the globe, particularly in the least developed countries, and urges the Office to continue to address such challenges in its work, within its mandate, and in consultation with national authorities and in cooperation with competent agencies in its operations;

33. *Notes* the positive efforts undertaken by the Government of Iraq to ensure the return and reintegration of Iraqi displaced citizens in and from Iraq, as well as the measures taken by host countries in the region in support of the displaced from Iraq, recognizes the serious impact of the displacement on the social and economic situation in the countries of the region, and in that context calls upon the international community to act in a targeted and coordinated manner to provide protection and increased assistance to the persons displaced in order to enable the countries in the region to strengthen their capacity to respond to the needs in partnership with the Office of the High Commissioner, other United Nations agencies, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement and non-governmental organizations;

34. *Urges* all States and relevant non-governmental and other organizations, in conjunction with the Office of the High Commissioner, in a spirit of international solidarity and burden- and responsibility-sharing, to cooperate and to mobilize resources with a view to enhancing the capacity of and reducing the heavy burden borne by host countries, in particular those that have received large numbers of refugees and asylum-seekers, and calls upon the Office to continue to play its catalytic role in mobilizing assistance from the international community to address

[9] Available from www.unhcr.org.

the root causes as well as the economic, environmental and social impact of large-scale refugee populations in developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, and countries with economies in transition;

35. *Expresses deep concern* about the existing and potential challenges posed by the world financial and economic crisis to the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner;

36. *Calls upon* the Office of the High Commissioner to further explore ways and means to broaden its donor base, so as to achieve greater burden-sharing by reinforcing cooperation with governmental donors, non-governmental donors and the private sector;

37. *Recognizes* that adequate and timely resources are essential for the Office of the High Commissioner to continue to fulfil the mandate conferred upon it through its statute[10] and by subsequent General Assembly resolutions on refugees and other persons of concern, recalls its resolutions 58/153 of 22 December 2003, 58/270 of 23 December 2003, 59/170 of 20 December 2004, 60/129 of 16 December 2005, 61/137 of 19 December 2006, 62/124 of 18 December 2007, 63/148 of 18 December 2008 and 64/127 of 18 December 2009 concerning, inter alia, the implementation of paragraph 20 of the statute of the Office, and urges Governments and other donors to respond promptly to annual and supplementary appeals issued by the Office for requirements under its programmes;

38. *Requests* the High Commissioner to report on his activities to the General Assembly at its sixty-sixth session.

[10] Resolution 428 (V), annex.